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April 1994

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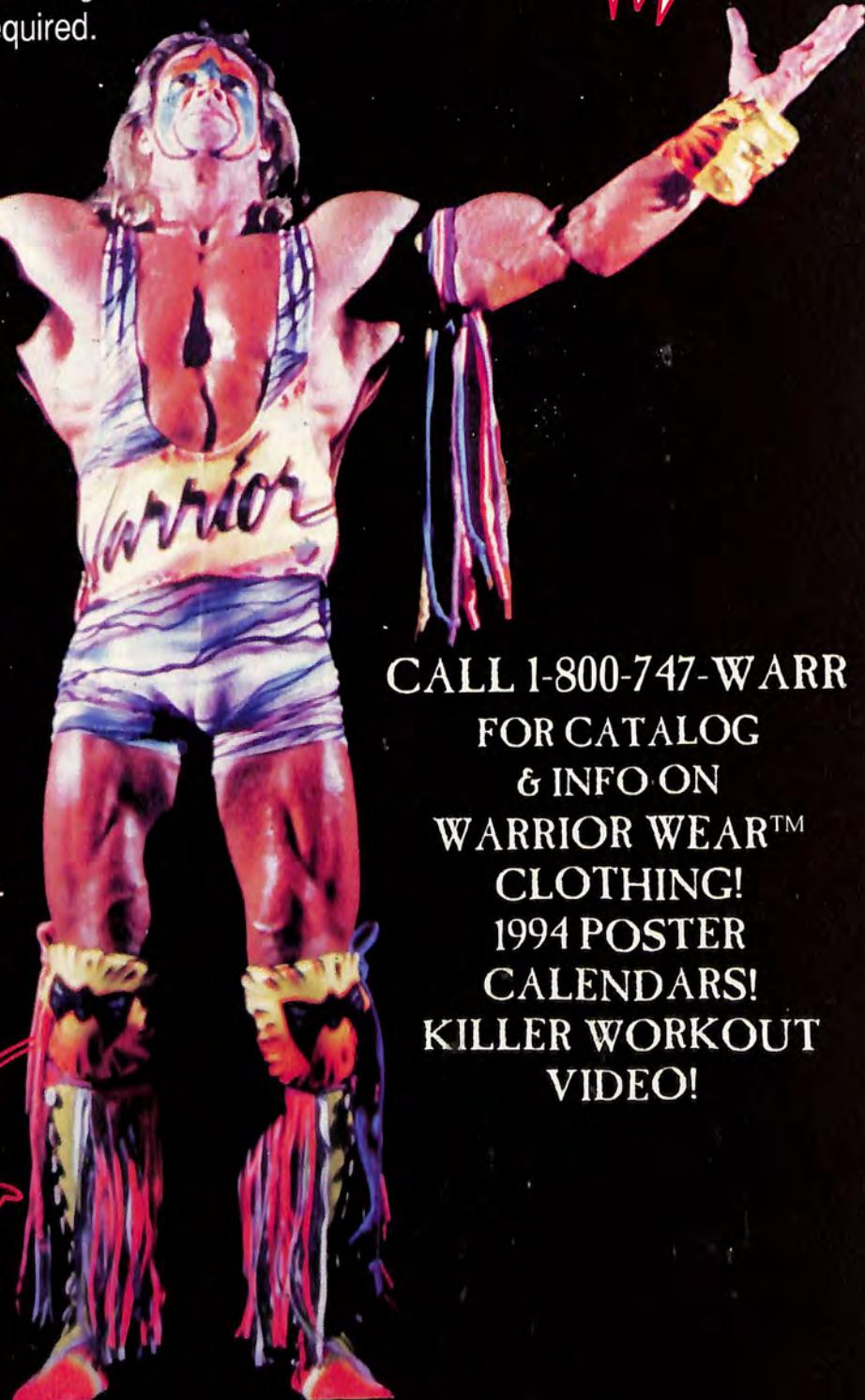
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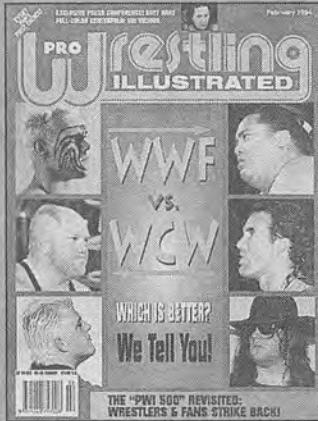
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# between falls

## FEDERATION WARS



In our February 1994 issue, we tried to answer the question that always provokes debate among wrestling fans: "WWF vs. WCW—Which Is Better?" Our analysis brought us to the conclusion that the WWF was better—that federation won in five of seven categories. This drew a mixed response from our readers.

"Your story underestimated the importance of strong champions," wrote Paul Alferd of Montclair, New Jersey. "You only gave WCW the edge in that and supercards. But I don't think the WWF's edge in roster depth means much. Big Van Vader, Dustin Rhodes, and Lord Steven Regal could beat almost anyone in the WWF."

"How could you rate WCW's supercards ahead of the WWF's?" wondered Nora Romain of Reno, Nevada. "WrestleMania IX and SummerSlam were two of the best shows I saw all year. Nothing WCW did matched those!"

"If there's any area where WCW has an edge, it's tag teams," wrote Kevin DeNario of Independence, Missouri. "The Quebecers are a joke and the Steiners are very overrated. Give me the Nastys or Bagwell and Scorpio any day."

## PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

welcomes reader's comments on any of our stories or columns.

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### BETWEEN FALLS

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Letters preceded by a **✉** indicate letters left by fans on the PWI Hotline (1-900-884-4PWI; see ad elsewhere in this issue).



When together, Steve Austin and Brian Pillman were WCW's premier tag team, states reader Noel Tovar. Now they've separated, and Austin has profited little from being on his own.

### STEVE WILL BE CRYIN'

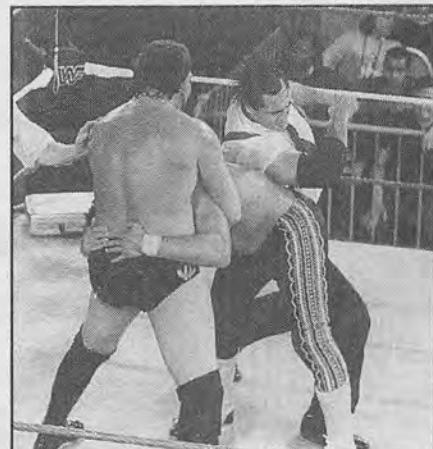
I was watching WCW Worldwide recently and I saw Steve Austin turn against Brian Pillman. What the heck is going through Steve's mind? He and "Flyin' Brian" were definitely the best tag team in WCW. Although they weren't the most technically skilled or the most powerful, the way they worked together was awesome. They were the best at fast movement, quick thinking, and rulebreaking. No one could beat them at that, including current WCW World tag team champions The Nasty Boys.

Pillman helped Austin when he was nothing, and Austin is still nothing as a singles competitor. What does Steve do in return? He turns his back on him. I guarantee two things: Austin will not win the U.S. title and Pillman will whip Austin when he gets the chance.

NOEL TOVAR  
Bedford, TX

### MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

I would like to comment on the "PWI 500" (December 1993). Ted DiBiase was rated number 30. The paragraph below him stated that he and



Ted DiBiase and Irwin R. Schyster were anything but cowardly champions, according to reader John Michael Pluto, who notes all the good teams they beat.

Irwin R. Schyster were cowardly champions. I am getting sick and tired of this blatant Money Inc. bashing. Money Inc. was the greatest tag team ever in pro wrestling.

If you don't believe me, ask the teams they defeated. Ask the Nasty Boys, Megamaniacs, Beverly Brothers, Steiners, Natural Disasters, Legion of Doom, Smokin' Gunns, and the Bushwhackers. The list goes on and on. How many so-called "cowards" could pin Road Warrior Hawk or put Earthquake to sleep? None! I rest my case.

JOHN MICHAEL PLUTO  
Gilbertsville, PA

#### WILDMAN SABU

In the past few months I've had the pleasure of attending several ECW cards in Philadelphia. Let me tell anyone who considers ECW champ Sabu's aerial talents and recklessness exaggerated that they are badly mistaken. This guy can really fly. It doesn't surprise me one bit that he's been able to hold both the ECW heavyweight and ECW TV title at the same time. He's that good. He combines the aerial skills of a Jimmy Snuka with the brutality of a Bruiser Brody and the bloodlust of a Kevin Sullivan. Maybe I'm going a bit too far and I understand he'll need a few years to hone his skills, but when that happens, look out. This guy has incredible potential.

BRAD WALTER  
Phoenixville, PA



Sabu has an avid fan in "PWI Hotline" caller reader Brad Walter, who's watched him many times on ECW cards, and calls him a superb aerialist with plenty of brutality and bloodlust.

#### DOES HE BELONG?

How could you idiots forget to include me in the "PWI 500"? There's no way you could look past my talent. I am undefeated in independent action and I bust my butt in the WWF against the likes of Doink the Clown, Razor Ramon, and Tatanka, not to mention giving them tough matches. Next time I expect to see my name in the rankings, preferably in the top 100. If it's not, I'll personally prove to you that I belong there!

TONY DeVITO  
New York

#### RAW RAVES

If there were a Program of the Year Award, it would definitely go to *WWF Monday Night Raw*. In the last few months, we've seen The Kid come out of nowhere to become a star in the fed-



Rick and Scott Steiner lost their WWF World tag team belts to The Quebecers last September on *WWF Monday Night Raw*. Reader Nathan T. Bellinger enjoys viewing the program for its many highlights and upsets.

eration, Crush totally destroy Randy Savage, Razor Ramon win the Intercontinental title in impressive fashion, and lots more. There's no doubt in my mind that *Raw* is the best wrestling on television today.

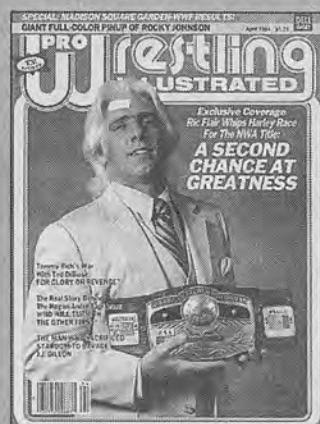
NATHAN T. BELLINGER  
South Bend, IN

#### MISSY'S NO MANAGER

When I bought and read the January 1994 issue of *PWI*, I was absolutely disgusted to find out that Missy Hyatt is once again a manager. But why would her pairing with The Nasty Boys be so difficult to understand? Missy Hyatt is as nasty and disgusting as

(Continued on page 52)

#### 10 YEARS AGO IN PWI



The cover of the April 1984 featured Ric Flair in a *GQ*-like pose, taken just days after he regained the NWA World title from Harley Race in a grueling steel cage battle at the very first Starrcade. 15,447 at the Greensboro (North Carolina) Coliseum witnessed the first NWA World title change within a cage, while another 30,000 watched in 10 closed-circuit TV locations. "A Second Chance At Greatness," the cover headline proclaimed, and history proved that Flair took advantage of it.

The centerfold, one of the most popular of the year, was a glorious portrait of Rocky Johnson, who shared the WWF World tag team title with Tony Atlas. Johnson, a former boxer, brilliantly combined his athleticism with speed and brute power. He still competes from time to time in Florida and Canada.

Elsewhere in the magazine: The forecast for the newly formed team of Hulk and Andre the Giant was disaster ... Mike Davis paid the price for saying no to J.J. Dillon's managerial offer ... Former partners Tommy Rich and Ted DiBiase raged a hellacious war.

Magazine availability: Sold out.

# RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

TAKE YOUR PICK: Who's the WWF Intercontinental champion? Is it **Shawn Michaels**, who held the belt for most of 1993, but was suspended in September by federation officials for reasons not entirely clear? Or is it **Razor**

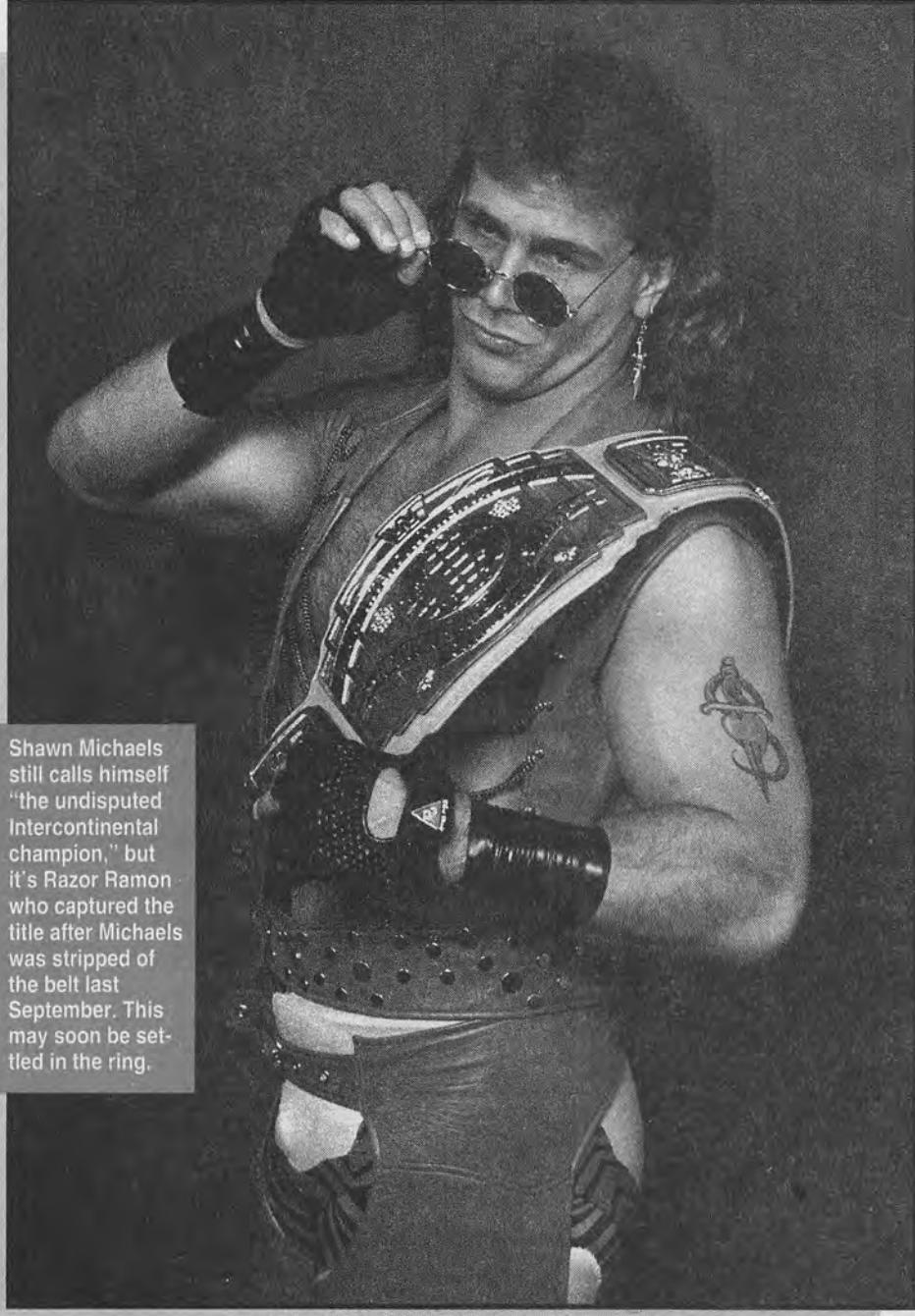
**Ramon**, who soon filled the vacancy by surviving a battle royal and then defeating the other finalist, **Rick Martel**, for the title?

Whatever your viewpoint, it's causing a load of controversy in the WWF.

Michaels has been proclaiming himself as the "undisputed Intercontinental champ" since being reinstated in the federation. He's looked as strong as ever in most of his matches (though he was dominated by **Randy Savage** when the WWF toured Great Britain), and has even resorted to mocking Ramon by using the "Razor's edge" finisher in some of his bouts. Ramon and Michaels have also interfered in each other's matches.

Down the road, this has to lead to a title bout. At WrestleMania X, perhaps?

Fans of women's wrestling are saluting the WWF's decision to revive the women's title that it abandoned in 1990. At press time, the federation was holding a tournament to determine a champion, and most observers considered the newly signed **Mausa Miceli** the favorite. No matter what happens, people are eagerly awaiting matches



Shawn Michaels still calls himself "the undisputed Intercontinental champion," but it's Razor Ramon who captured the title after Michaels was stripped of the belt last September. This may soon be settled in the ring.

A little Doink'll do ya: When the WWF prohibited Doink the Clown from having lookalike Doinks, Doink found a way to skirt the ruling: He now employs a midget version of himself, Dink. You can bet that he'll cause a little bit of trouble.



between the kick-boxing Miceli and crazed **Luna Vachon**. They should be wars!

Speaking of Luna, she and **Bam Bam Bigelow** are in for a little more than they expect when Bigelow tangles with **Doink the Clown**. And we literally mean a *little* more. Although WWF President **Jack Tunney** has disallowed the use of multiple Doinks (his clones now wrestle in various independent federations), the jester recently received a midget version of himself from **Santa Claus**.

This diminutive Doink, named **Dink**, is at ringside for every match, and will certainly try to cut Vachon and Bigelow down to size.

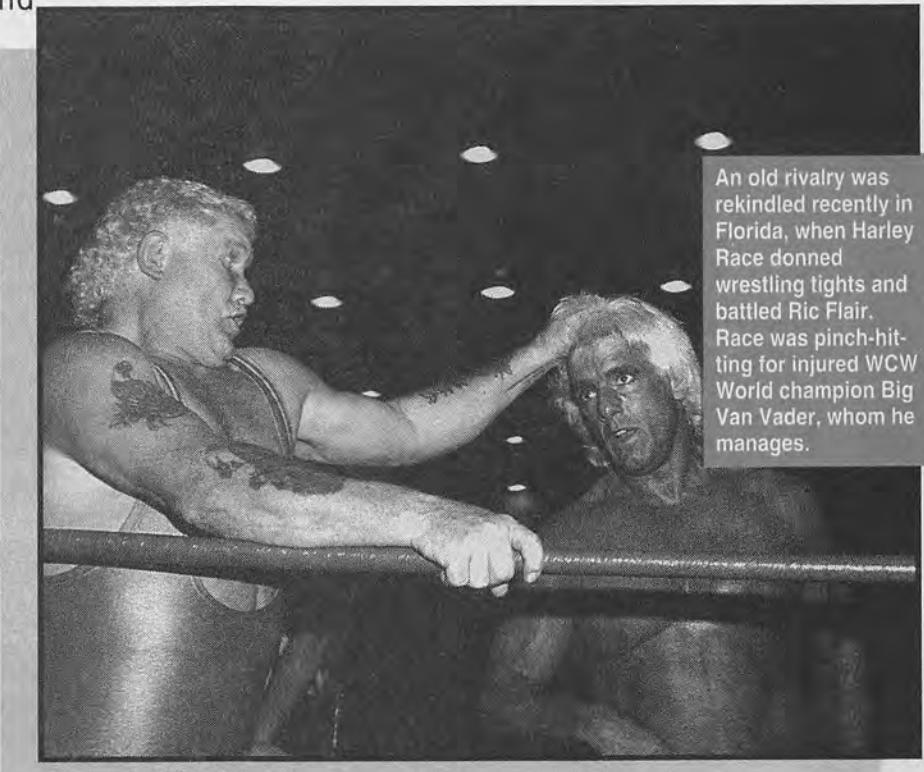
We can't ignore the news coming out of New York, where WWF head **Vince McMahon** has been indicted

by a federal grand jury on charges of possessing and conspiring to distribute anabolic steroids. McMahon professes his innocence, and under our legal system he is innocent until proven guilty. The trial is scheduled to begin in May.

At stake is not only the federation's reputation, but its real estate. Titan Sports, the WWF's corporate parent, is also a defendant. If the government can prove the alleged felonies took place at Titan Tower in Stamford, Connecticut, the \$9-million complex could be seized as part of a conviction.

WCW fans in Florida must have felt 10 years younger not long ago, when they saw **Harley Race** wrestle—that's right, wrestle!—longtime foe **Ric Flair**. Race was filling in for his injured World champion, **Big Van Vader**. Flair won

(Continued on page 54)



An old rivalry was rekindled recently in Florida, when Harley Race donned wrestling tights and battled Ric Flair. Race was pinch-hitting for injured WCW World champion Big Van Vader, whom he manages.

from the desk of...

Stuart M. Saks

Some things cannot be vanquished. Things like a great explorer's spirit, a lonely man's pain. Things like a lover's desire, a mother's devotion to her child.

Things like the heart and soul of professional wrestling.

For those of us who have come down on the sport in recent times, and I include myself among them, we spoke too soon. Yes, these are difficult times in wrestling, and for the men within it. But away from the Vincent McMahon indictment and the scandals that have plagued some of the great wrestlers of these times, the essence of the great wrestling—its unbreakable fiber of intensity, athleticism, and excitement—beats on.

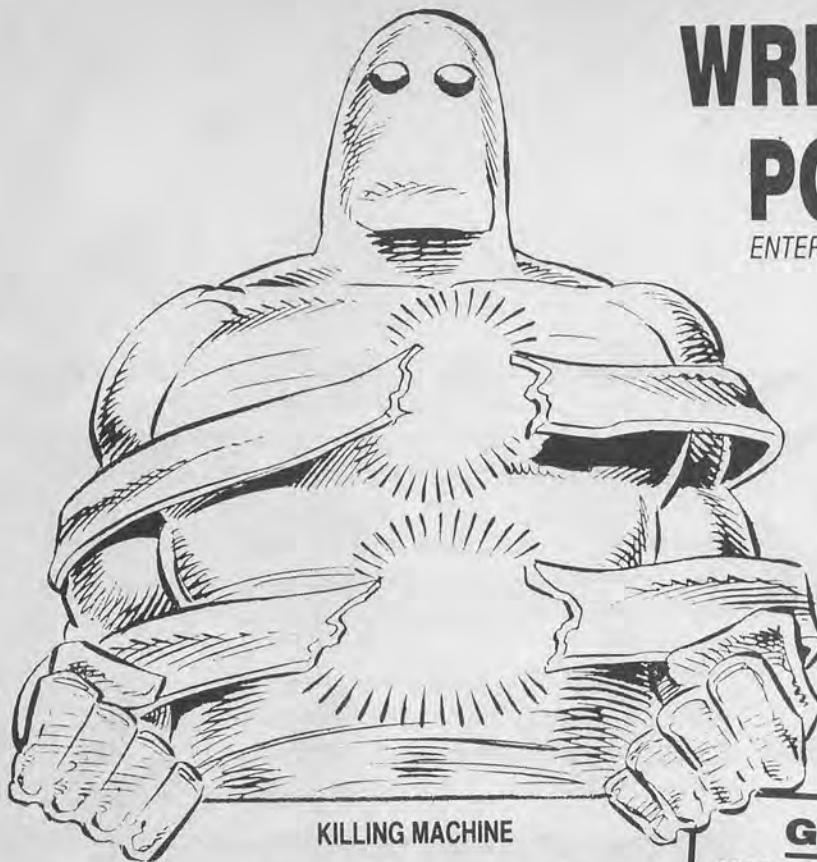
Last month I wrote in this space lamenting the woes that have befallen McMahon, Jerry Lawler, and Sid Vicious and Arn Anderson. I said that I reported bad wrestling news out of professional duty, with a bad taste in my mouth.

I still lament the individual cases and the bad taste is still there. But if even in my remotest subconscious I allowed myself to believe that these troubles could bring down the beauty and power of wrestling, I was wrong. Very wrong.

Not long after the McMahon indictment, I attended a live taping of WWF Monday Night Raw in Poughkeepsie, New York. As soon as I stepped into the arena, the energy of the place swept through me. The fans were alive, the prematch buzz of anticipation moving palpably through the air.

As I picked my way through the crowded aisles and took my seat, I thought of nothing but the competition that awaited me.

(Continued on page 58)



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# in focus

By Craig Peters

## THE MOST POPULAR WRESTLING YOU NEVER HEARD OF

Here are a few trivia questions:

- Is Cien Caras a fan favorite or a rulebreaker?
- What are the names of the three wrestlers who comprise Los Exoticos?
- Which of the following wrestlers wear masks: Volador, Octagon, The Blue Panther, or Fuerza Guerrera?
- What makes Mascarita Sagrada different from most wrestlers?

If you answered all of the above correctly (or any of the above correctly, for that matter)—without guessing!—then you're ahead of most *PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED* readers, and most wrestling fans in general. Because that means you have some knowledge of AAA, the Mexico-based federation that didn't wait for the passing of NAFTA before sending its product across the border into California and enjoying huge success.

As of press time, AAA (which stands for Asestencias Asesoria y Administracion) has run a total of five cards in the United States, three in late-August and two in November. They've averaged approximately 9,000 fans at each card, including dates at the Los Angeles Sports Arena on August 28 and November 12 that drew 16,700 and 11,600 fans, respectively.

This is clearly more than a strong regional promotion. This promotion, already incredibly popular in Mexico, is testing the waters in the United States and, quite obviously, finding them friendly.

What makes AAA so popular at a time when

arena crowds exceeding just a few thousand are rare in the U.S., even for WWF and WCW cards?

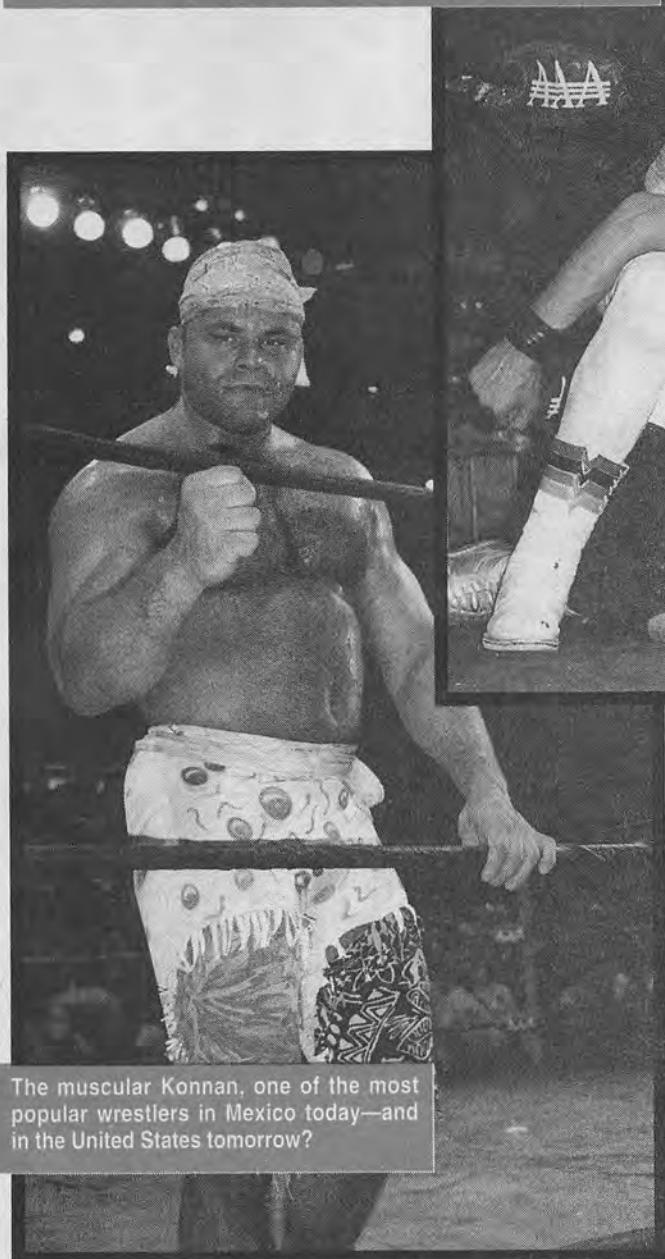
Perhaps it's the unique mystique of the acrobatic masked wrestler, a tradition most fans in the U.S. associate with the excellence of Mil Mascaras. It continues in AAA today with such stars as Psicosis, Rey Misterio Jr., and El Hijo del Santo (who, like Mascaras, is a major film star in Mexico).

Perhaps it's the phenomenal action and incredible risk-taking that's displayed on most AAA cards. Think, for example, of the kinds of risks taken by The Kid, Cactus Jack, and Sabu. Now,



Fuerza Guerrera, one of the AAA promotion's more notorious masked rulebreakers, uses Octagon's mask to literally tie him up in the ropes.

Mascara Sagrada tries to unmask Universal Dos Mil during a six-man contest in San Jose, California, last August. The card drew a crowd of 4,500, part of an enormously successful U.S. debut for the Mexico-based promotion.



The muscular Konnan, one of the most popular wrestlers in Mexico today—and in the United States tomorrow?

instead of seeing them as one wrestler on a card, imagine an entire card of wrestlers taking those kinds of risks! Have you ever seen Brian Pillman or Jushin Liger attack a wrestler by diving through the ropes from the ring to the arena floor? That's called a tope in Mexico, and it's as common as the dropkick is here in the U.S.

Perhaps it's the slight twist on traditional wrestling rules that's utilized by AAA. Many of the bouts are best-of-three-falls, six-man bouts where each three-man team has a member designated

as the captain. To win a fall, one team must either pin or force a submission to either the captain or both of the other two members of the team (in effect, pinning the captain counts for two points, while pinning another team member counts for one point).

Or perhaps the AAA's remarkable success comes simply because it's preaching to the converted. After all, there's a large Mexican population in Southern California that's already attuned to the federation's goings-on by virtue of the local AAA television programs. The question remains to be answered: Can AAA succeed outside of Southern California?

We may soon know the answer. The promotion is slated to run cards in New York City and Chicago in February, in addition to returning to California in March. Should the success of AAA prove to be more than a West Coast phenomenon, then everyone in the U.S., from WWF and WCW to Smoky Mountain and USWA and ECW, will have to sit up and take notice.

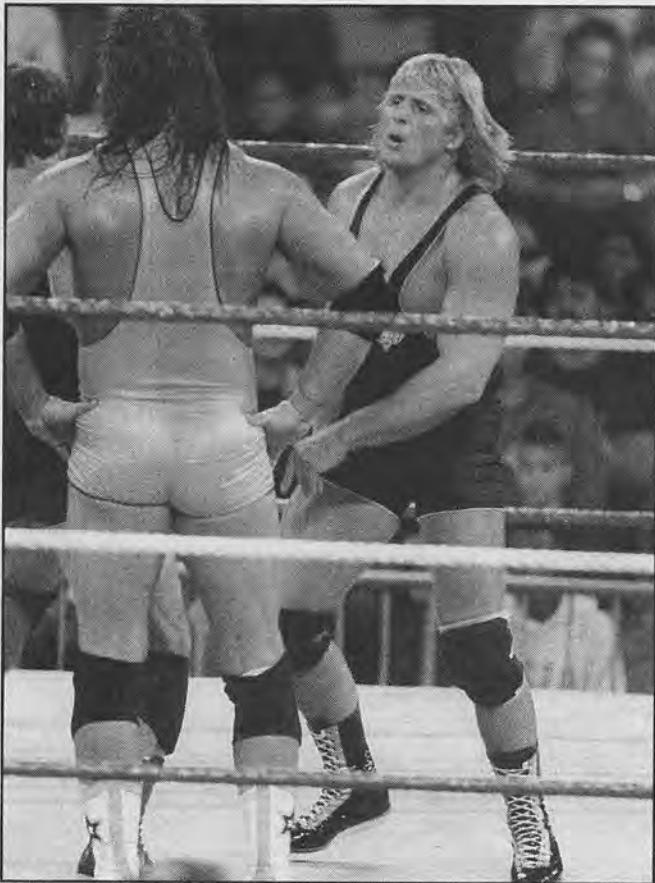
(By the way, the answers to the questions posed at the beginning of the column are: Rulebreaker [the most hated wrestler on the AAA roster, in fact]; Rudy Reyna, May Flowers, and Baby Sharon; all of them; he's a midget.)

THE HART BROTHERS can now be called wrestling's First Family. But, thanks to little brother Owen, there's a lot of dissension in that family, so they may not hold that lofty distinction for very long.

At the Survivor Series on Thanksgiving Eve, Owen decided his brothers had not acted in his best interests. After Shawn Michaels pinned him, he looked over to see brothers Keith and Bruce tending to brother Bret, whom Owen had accidentally knocked off the apron and into the metal ring barrier.

That ticked off Owen, who returned to the dressing room. Bret recovered and the Harts went on to win the match. When Owen returned, he shoved Bret to the mat rather than join in the celebration.

There is a chance that by the time you read this all will be well with the Hart brothers. Owen will have apologized, and Bret will be in the midst of another serious run at the WWF World title. However, Owen's



Owen Hart has long been widely acknowledged as a fine wrestler, but he's always competed under big brother Bret's long shadow, and it's beginning to irritate him.

flash of anger revealed the deep-seated rivalry between them. The rivalry is natural among brothers, but it nearly insures that neither will achieve the greatness of which he is capable.

# win or lose draw

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

Talk to those who grew up with Bret and Owen and who know them well now, and they will tell you how important it is for the brothers always to be trying to top each other.

"Looking at the family overall, you see a lot of accomplishments, from grade school on up," said one longtime family acquaintance. "But it isn't so much because they were supporting each other, it was because they were *opposing* each other. Outwardly they celebrated each other's successes, but privately they were plotting against each other. Not in a sinister way, but there was a tension there. You don't have to take my word for it; a lot of other people will tell you the same thing."

A similar tale indeed was told by several Hart friends and acquaintances. To a man and woman, they love and respect the family. They also insist the Harts were super-intense rivals who sought advantages over one another.

Bruce Hart's view: What's wrong with that?

"You've admitted that this rivalry is natural among brothers," he said. "We were certainly competing against one another. In that way we opposed each other, but if one of my brothers did something well, I celebrated it gladly. There was absolutely no jealousy. Maybe a little bit, but that was just immaturity. We outgrew it."

If Owen did outgrow it, it didn't show at Survivor Series. He lashed out at his brothers, especially ex-World champion Bret. He claimed he was always being overlooked in favor of his older brothers.

Overlooked by whom? Not the fans. Owen had become the second most popular member of the family

(Continued on page 56)

"IF YOU DARE TO ENTER  
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YOUR SOUL TO MEET ME  
ON THE DARK SIDE!"

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# The Steel Cage

By Chris Bernucca

## A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER?

If you are a fan of wrestling, you have to be rooting for the federal government to throw the book at Vince McMahon.

The WWF head, who is facing a possible prison sentence and \$1-million in fines for allegedly distributing steroids to his wrestlers, is undoubtedly the most influential player in the sport. Whether you find today's wrestling appealing or revolting, you have to credit Vince McMahon for singlehandedly shaping what it has become.

It was McMahon who took wrestling from late-night television filler material to a booming pay-per-view extravaganza. It was McMahon who created the concept of the wrestler as a larger-than-life superhero. It was McMahon who turned wrestling into a marketing tool more powerful than any home shopping network.

And, as we await the outcome of his case, we must remember that it was McMahon who is responsible for the sport's current decline.

Twice a month, I have to develop and write a column for this family of magazines. I used to look forward to using this space to offer my

opinions to the reader. This year, writing many of my columns has become a chore not unlike scrubbing the underside of my toilet.

Why? Because today's brand of wrestling is losing an edge that it has enjoyed for years. Along with the charges currently facing McMahon, there should be an additional indictment against him for undermining the popularity of the sport.

As it stands today, wrestling is rife with overpublicized athletes who aren't nearly as good as they are touted to be. Lex Luger became a patriot and took a bus tour across the United States, but he hasn't won a title. Yet he remains the focal point of the WWF's relentless hype machine. The biggest impact Sid Vicious has made on WCW was an attack upon Arn Anderson in a hotel room in London.

Many matches are either thoroughly one-

sided or thoroughly unappealing. Yokozuna vs. P.J. Walker? I'd rather see Yoko Ono wrestle P.J. Walker. At least it would be more competitive.

You think that's bad? This was an actual WCW card in Kennesaw, Georgia, on October 26: Brian Anderson vs. The Gambler; Terry Taylor vs. The Ace; Michael Hayes vs. Bobby Walker; The Equalizer vs. Mike Winner; Thunder & Lightning vs. Buddy Lee Parker & Big Bad John; and, in the main event, Tex Slazenger & Shanghai Pierce vs. Tom Zenk & Jim Steele. I don't care if admission was free. There isn't enough money in print to get me to attend that card.

When a match does appear to have promise, its finish usually leaves a film in one's mouth. There was a true sense of anticipation for the Bret Hart-Yokozuna bout at WrestleMania IX. It ended in ridiculous fashion, with the referee



Vince McMahon should rightly get most of the credit for wrestling's rise during the 1980s. He also deserves much of the blame for the sport's recent woes.

losing total control and Hulk Hogan emerging from the muck wearing the championship belt.

Most sports have an annual crop of newcomers who add freshness and excitement, preventing the product from becoming stale. Usually, wrestling is no exception. This year, baseball had Mike Piazza, football had Terry Kirby, and basketball had Chris Webber. In wrestling, nearly all of the "newcomers" are veterans who have been out of the loop for a while. The most exciting "rookie" this year was The Kid, who has actually been competing since the late-1980s.

McMahon must shoulder the blame for all of the sport's ills, simply because he was the primary beneficiary of all of its success in the 1980s. As much as my publisher wants to editorially disagree, McMahon is the unquestioned leader in wrestling. There is not a single decision-maker anywhere in the sport who has taken the bold steps that McMahon has. WCW and other copycat federations have just gotten in line and followed the leader.

It is those steps that have brought wrestling to its current state, with attendance and television ratings on the decline. While the popularity of the sport has, through its history, run in cycles, it would be a tragic mistake for the promoters to count on history repeating itself. In a lousy economy, with cutthroat competition for the advertising dollar and a viewing public that has turned channel-surfing into an art form, that could be a blueprint for disaster.

It is time for a drastic change, beginning at the top. The charges aside, McMahon has worn out his welcome as the sport's visionary. He has become too consumed with the bottom line to act as wrestling's

caretaker. In fact, I don't believe there is anyone in the executive offices of the WWF or WCW who is up to the task.

dogs and beers. It needs championship bouts that are fought to a conclusion. It needs new faces and new maneuvers. And it needs a



Since turning fan favorite last summer, Lex Luger has received the lion's share of publicity from the WWF. Yet for all the hype, Luger has yet to win a title in the federation.

Wrestling doesn't need steroid monsters. It doesn't need foam tombstones. It doesn't need title matches in which lack of competent officiating is made up for with double-disqualifications. It doesn't need the same old faces executing the same old finishing maneuvers. And it doesn't need Vince McMahon.

Wrestling needs more athleticism and less showmanship. It needs hot

leader who will nurture the sport, not sell it out for the almighty dollar.

The next time you become uninterested or disgusted with a wrestling telecast, before you change the channel, take a look at the brand name on the remote control. Chances are it comes from a country where wrestling is a thriving industry, neither beset by scandal nor threatened by indifference.

Japan. □

# off the top rope

by Eddie Ellner

If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag, send your letters to:

**TOP ROPE**  
Box 956  
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

*(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)*

**I**T'S HARD TO concentrate. There's too much noise. I close my eyes and strange, disturbing visions fill my head. I move to the wall, and drop to a head stand. From this position I can drain my lymphatic system, massage my internal organs, and reverse the aging process.

I am young again. It's 1967. Second grade. I pull the chair out from Mary Dorney. She punches me in the head, breaking my glasses. How can I think while just ahead the grim reality of another Ric Flair title reign looms? It's gonna happen. I don't want it to happen. It shouldn't happen.

Big Van Vader is a throwback, the kind of champion who rules and dominates, a monarch. He should run out the decade, the century. But there's too much Flair in the air. You can feel the whole federation gearing for a Flair revival. It's like WCW rolled the dice and the card they drew said, Flair wins another title; take three steps back.

Haven't you heard? You can't go home again. Don't they know not to look back, that something may be gaining on them. A Vader victory would put an exclamation point on his title reign. I know it won't happen.

I'll tell you what—if Vader wins, I'll do Bill Apter's laundry for a week. Big deal, you say? Have you ever seen Bill's socks?

Luger—why should he be held to a different standard than other athletes? After a decent season, a ballplayer suddenly wants out of the six-year contract he signed last year. Luger is simply exercising his right as a spoiled, overpaid prima donna. Lay off the guy.

Dear Eddie,

Of all the following old-time greats, who do you think would enjoy the most success today: Lou



Lex Luger's desire to get a second chance at Yokozuna's WWF World title shouldn't be all that surprising. It's simply wrestling's equivalent of renegotiating your contract.

Dear Eddie,

I read somewhere recently where Bill Apter called Lex Luger a good and noble man. Would you explain what that means? Where I come from, a man is as good as his word. If he signs a contract that says he gets one shot at the title, then he takes his shot, makes it his best one, and—win or lose—goes home. Case closed. No gripe. No moan. What do you think?

**BERNIE CALLAHAN**  
Philadelphia

Dear Bernie,

Bill's concept of nobility was shaped during the eight years he spent as president of the Jerry Lewis fan club. Concerning Lex

Thesz, Killer Kowalski, Bruno Sammartino, or Verne Gagne?

**JERRY BURNS**  
Santa Fe, NM

Dear Jerry,

Get a grip, will ya? Fans today are MTV junkies, buzzed on melting images. They have three-second attention spans, and you're gonna feed them Verne Gagne? In his best day, Verne would put you to sleep faster than a Klaus Von Bulow cocktail. Ditto Lou Thesz. Bruno's accent would draw laughs, but the second he stepped through the ropes, fans would go into hibernation. Killer Kowalski, on the other hand,

*(Continued on page 18)*

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All  
way  
Believe  
Never

## off the top rope

(Continued from page 16)



If Killer Kowalski (applying the iron claw against Johnny Rougeau, circa 1961) wrestled today, he could beat more than a few current stars.

would rock the house. Kowalski used to clock how fast from the time the bell rang he could have his opponent in the hospital. He used to make bets with other wrestlers, and often earned more money that way than his regular purse would amount to. I bet Killer could come back today and give stiffs like Terry Taylor or Rick Martel a run for their money.

Dear Eddie,

What's the deal with all these wrestlers testifying against Vince McMahon? Without Vince, these bums would be left out on the street. He made them big stars. They call that gratitude? They're nothing but a bunch of yellow backstabbing cowards.

AARON OFSKEE  
Brighton Beach, NY

Dear Aaron,

The question that will be resolved in court is: How exactly

did Vince make them big stars? Through promotion, persistence, encouragement, and marketing genius? Or through eight-inch needles filled with steroid juice? Let's wait for the trial before passing judgment on Vince. Passing judgment on a thug like you is much easier. You cannot comprehend the pressure athletes are under. Testimony from football players is damning and compelling: The margin for error is so slim that you need every advantage. If the guy across the line from you is crazed on drugs, and your coach expects you to block him, what are your choices? Shoot up or speak out. The wrestlers testifying are performing a brave service, one they should be commended for.

Dear Eddie,

What's Jim Cornette's deal? One day he's at the center of the WWF title controversy, the next he's running amuck in Smoky Mountain. It seems all the great managers stayed put in one place. I think Cornette should settle down if he expects to get any respect.

WANDA LYTHE  
Dallas, TX

Dear Wanda,

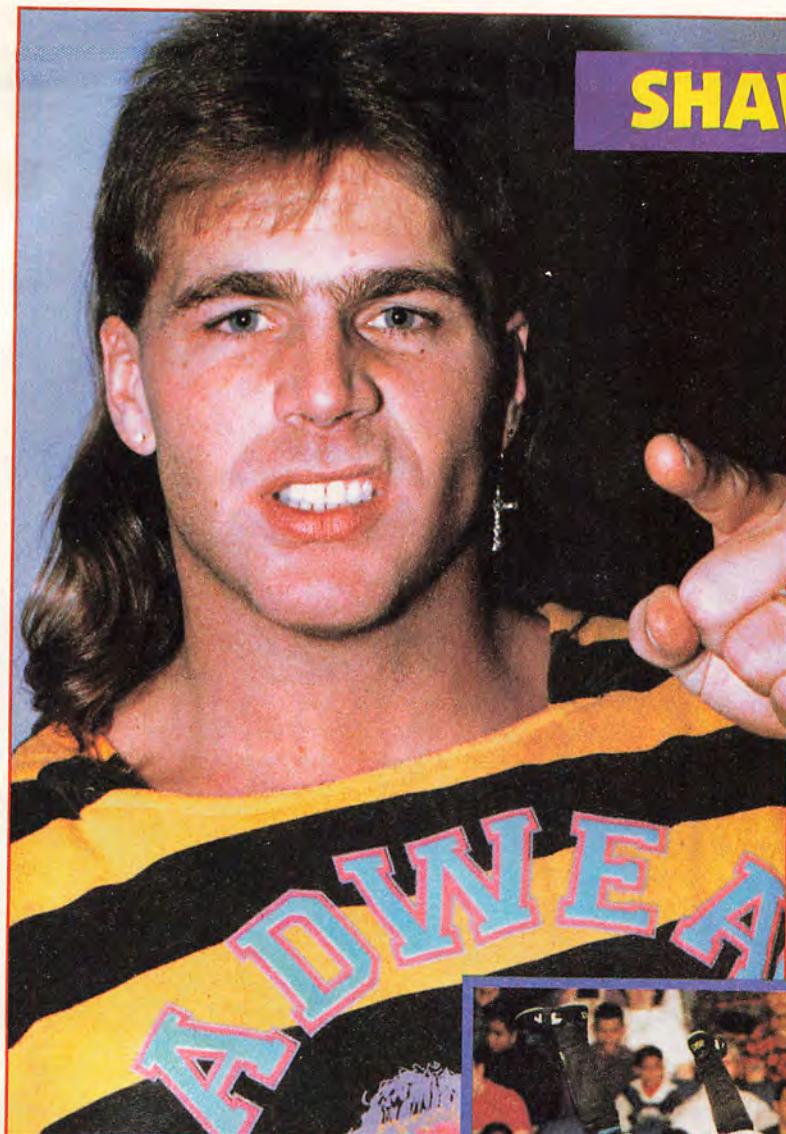
I'm not certain respect, especially from you, is of particular concern to Jim Cornette. He prefers to get headlines like he gets money—in no particular denomination, as long as there are lots of them. Cornette's genius is in quantity, not quality. He'll never perch at the very top, but he'll buzz everywhere around it. □



Jim Cornette will never dominate any single federation. He's more concerned with throwing his weight around everywhere, so he'll be a nuisance in both Smoky Mountain Wrestling and the WWF for years to come.

# SHAWN MICHAELS:

**“ENOUGH  
OF THIS  
KID STUFF,  
GIVE ME  
RAMON!”**

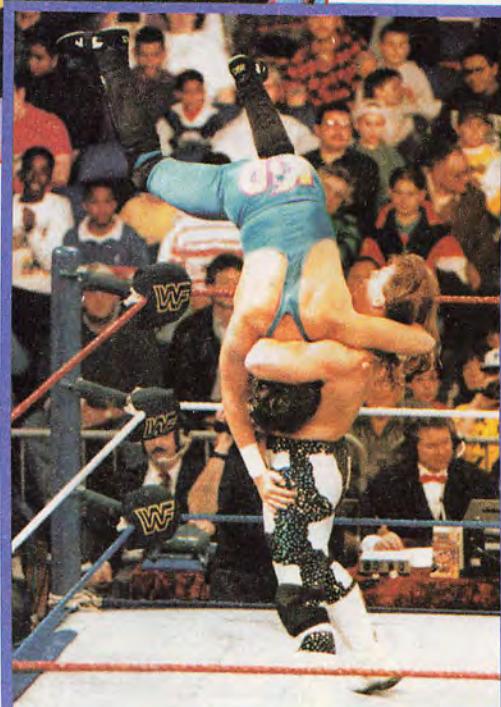


By Dave Rosenbaum

**S**TEPPINGSTONES ARE for prospects, not for established pro wrestlers. And they're especially not for former Intercontinental and World tag team champions.

So why in the world was Shawn Michaels bothering with Doink the Clown, The Kid, and even the Hart family when he had more important things to worry about, like reclaiming the I-C belt from Razor Ramon?

That was the question on everyone's mind when Michaels stepped into the ring against The Kid during a *WWF Monday Night Raw* broadcast not too long ago. Something seemed out of place.



Shawn Michaels and The Kid are in some ways comparable; both are relatively small wrestlers with plenty of guile. But Michaels' experience and desire to get at current champion Razor Ramon proved to be too much for Kid.

Shawn Michaels' only use for The Kid was as a steppingstone to Razor Ramon. With two "Razor's edge" power bombs, the former Intercontinental champion sent a message to the current champ: "I want the belt!"



Trying to get every possible psychological edge, Michaels finished off Kid with his version of Ramon's "Razor's edge" power bomb (left). To add insult to injury, he did it a second time (inset), leading Ramon to charge into the ring.

"The WWF suspended Michaels a while back, but it's as if they're extending his punishment by refusing to give him what he really wants: A series of matches against Ramon," WWF expert Thomas Pilliard said. "I think this match proved that Ramon wants Michaels as badly as Michaels wants Ramon."

Now they're going to get each other.

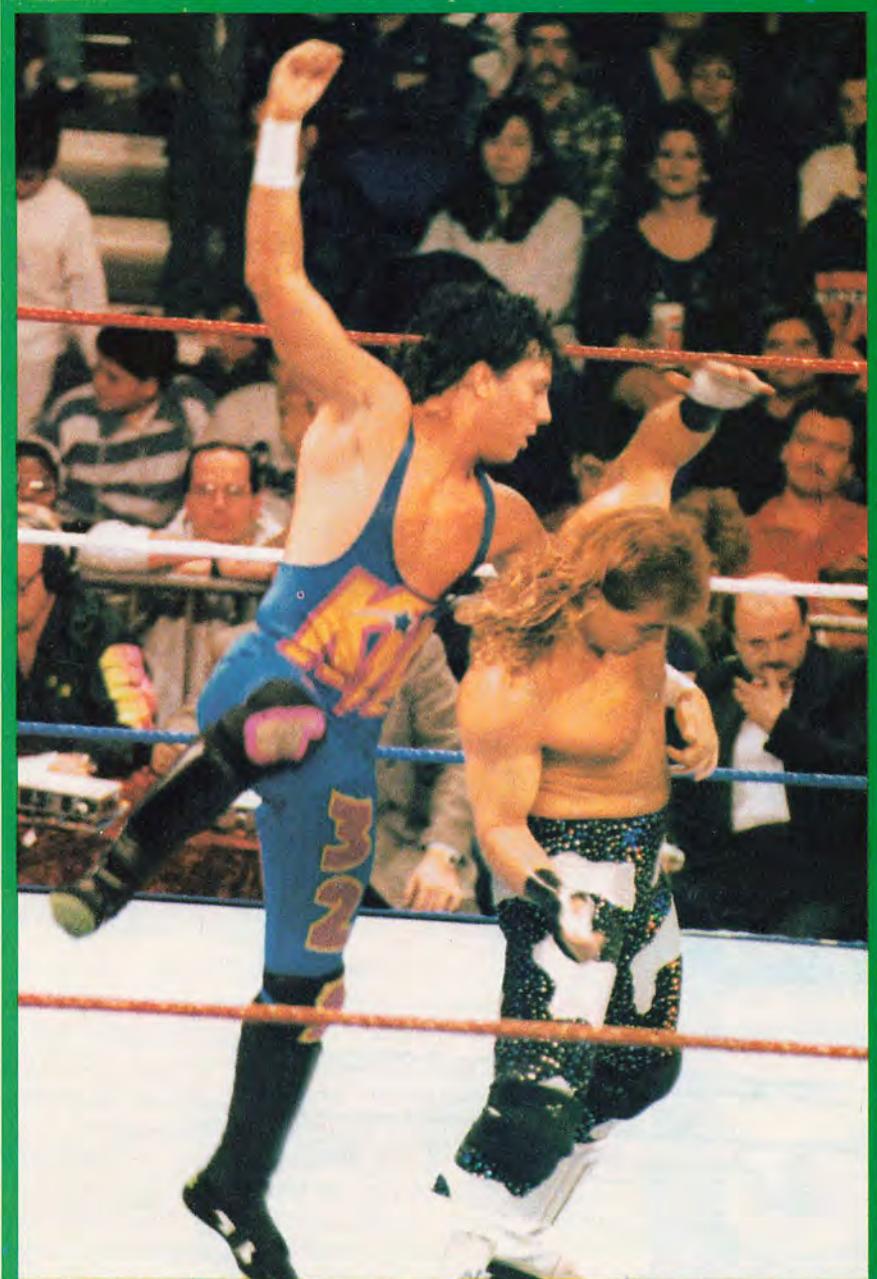
The "Bad Guy" made an impromptu appearance during the Kid-Michaels match. In a way,

Ramon arrived even earlier than planned. When The Kid made a crucial mistake, Michaels took control and sent a message to Ramon. He drove Kid into the mat with a power bomb that was amusingly similar to Ramon's own "Razor's edge."

Ramon, as if he was waiting for a cue, ran to the ring after Michaels executed a second power bomb. He pulled Kid out of the ring and brawled with Michaels.

If all is right in the WWF, this was the beginning of what could be a long war

between the current champion and the former champion. Michaels made the first move earlier in the evening, when he interfered in a match between Ramon and Diesel. After Michaels pounded Ramon, the champion vowed revenge. That's just what Michaels wanted to hear. The two power bombs against Kid were Michaels' answer. They meant, "I want you worse than you



Kid certainly isn't in the same class as Bret Hart, whom Michaels also faced after his brief exile. But beating Kid helps Michaels chip away at Ramon's psyche.

want me."

Give Michaels credit for going through Kid to get to Ramon. He knows the "Bad Guy" and the underdog are friends, dating back to the incident last summer when Kid stole Ramon's money and Ted DiBiase ridiculed the Razor.

"Razor became Kid's protector," said a WWF wrestler. "He really watches out for him, and that gives Kid a little more confi-

dence in the ring. But I'm sure Kid didn't realize what that meant. He found himself in the middle of the Michaels vs. Ramon thing."

Michaels was already a frustrated wrestler by the time he fought Kid at *Raw*. A case can be made that it wouldn't have mattered who his opponent was that night; Michaels was sick and tired of wrestling the Doinks,

(Continued on page 60)

# press conference

The Von Erich family in 1986: (From left) Chris, Mike, Kevin, mother Doris, and Kerry. The Von Erichs had six sons; Kevin is the lone survivor.



## KEVIN VON ERICH

**N**OBODY COULD POSSIBLY know how he feels. Kevin Von Erich, one of six sons of Fritz and Doris Von Erich, is now the only brother left in a profound tragedy.

Jack, 7, accidentally electrocuted himself in 1959. David, 25, died of acute enteritis during a wrestling tour of Japan in 1984. Mike, 23, died of a drug overdose in 1987 after toxic shock syndrome ravaged his body and affected his mental health. Chris, 21, devastated by Mike's death, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in 1991. On February 18, 1993, in Denton, Texas, Kerry, 33, was found dead with a self-inflicted bullet wound through his chest.

Kerry had been going through severe problems. The day before his death, he had been indicted on a cocaine possession charge while on probation for a 1992 drug conviction. With life collapsing around him and a jail sentence likely, Kerry took his life.

Ten years ago, the Von Erichs were wrestling's golden boys. Handsome, athletic, and charismatic, the boys stole the hearts of Texas wrestling fans and found similar adoration worldwide. But everything went wrong.

Mystery has been attached to each of the deaths, and countless theories have been offered on what made three brothers commit suicide. Many questions remain unanswered. And the tragedy runs deeper than most people know—Fritz and Doris divorced two years ago after 43 years of marriage.

Kevin, 36, is the oldest of the Von Erich sons. A star during the boom years of World Class Wrestling in Texas in the mid-1980s, he is now semi-retired with no plans of returning to the ring. He and his wife, Pam, live in Shreveport, Louisiana, with their four children: Kristen, 12, Jill, 8, David Michael Ross, 5, and Kevin Kerry Marsh, 1.

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED Senior Writer Dave Rosenbaum spoke with Von Erich early in October.

"His pain is obviously very deep," Rosenbaum reported. "People doubt the Von Erichs' sincerity, but Kevin exposed his soul. At one point during the interview, he was talking about growing up and how close he was to his brothers. Out of nowhere he paused and said, 'I do feel lonely.'

"I thought he was going to cry, and then, I think, he did."

**"I'm the only one alive, and some people are taking bets on me. But there's no way that's going to happen to me because I have a reason to live and a good one. I'm happy with my life."**

**PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED:** I understand you're writing a screenplay. What is it about?

**VON ERICH:** It's going to be the story of the Von Erich brothers, being the older brother, and how it all went down. There's a whole lot of guesswork and a lot of people are making up the whole story. I'd like to get the facts out. My brothers were really good people.

**PWI:** Why have you stopped wrestling?

**VON ERICH:** I'm still in shape, but wrestling is just not fun for me. I didn't leave the business. The business left me.

**PWI:** How do you rationalize what has happened to your family?

**VON ERICH:** I look at it like this: My brothers and I lived really dangerously. We were a really reckless group, always showing off for each other, like walking on bridges in Japan and taking every chance we could. We were just young kids. We felt like we could do anything and nothing would hurt us. It was reckless. I'm really surprised that I survived it.

**PWI:** So what's your opinion about what happened?

**VON ERICH:** I'm hearing all this guesswork about what made the Von Erichs do it. Nothing made us do it. It just happened. We enjoyed ourselves to death. We were always

showing off for each other. We used to have this thing called the chance of the day, where we'd take a chance on our lives every day. Dave was always too smart for that, so he'd just watch. We'd jump on wild bulls' backs, jump on trains going fast. I almost got beheaded one time doing that. We'd get on the roof of a car at highway speed. You start thinking nothing can get you and you're indestructible. That's part of being in sports. We were blessed with good bodies, good balance. We showed off for each other.

**PWI:** Why did you survive?

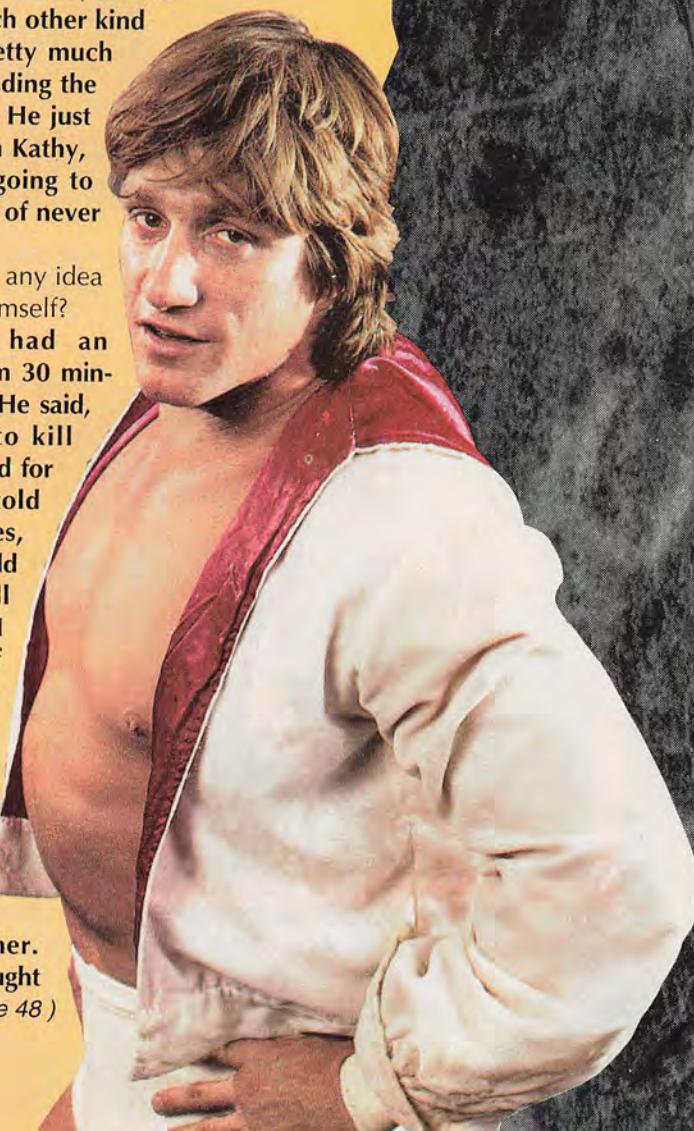
**VON ERICH:** That's a tough question. I think only the good Lord can answer that. Kerry really didn't have anything to live for. He had his two beautiful daughters and a wife he loved, but then he'd come home and all of his stuff would be moved out. She'd move all of his stuff out. Kerry felt like he was in a hopeless situation. Kerry was no saint, either. They both treated each other kind of rough. He had pretty much come to an understanding the day he killed himself. He just left having lunch with Kathy, his wife. Kerry was going to jail and he was afraid of never seeing his girls again.

**PWI:** Did you have any idea he was going to kill himself?

**VON ERICH:** I had an inkling. I talked to him 30 minutes before he did it. He said, "Kevin, I'm about to kill myself." We had talked for about an hour. We told some good dirty jokes, we laughed, and he told me, "I'm going to kill myself." I thought I had him talked out of it. He said, "I just didn't want to be like Mike and not say goodbye." That's when I begged him. I said, "Don't do this thing. Don't leave me alone. You're my only brother. Don't leave me." I thought

*(Continued on page 48)*

**Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.**



# THE MAKING OF A SUPER STABLE:

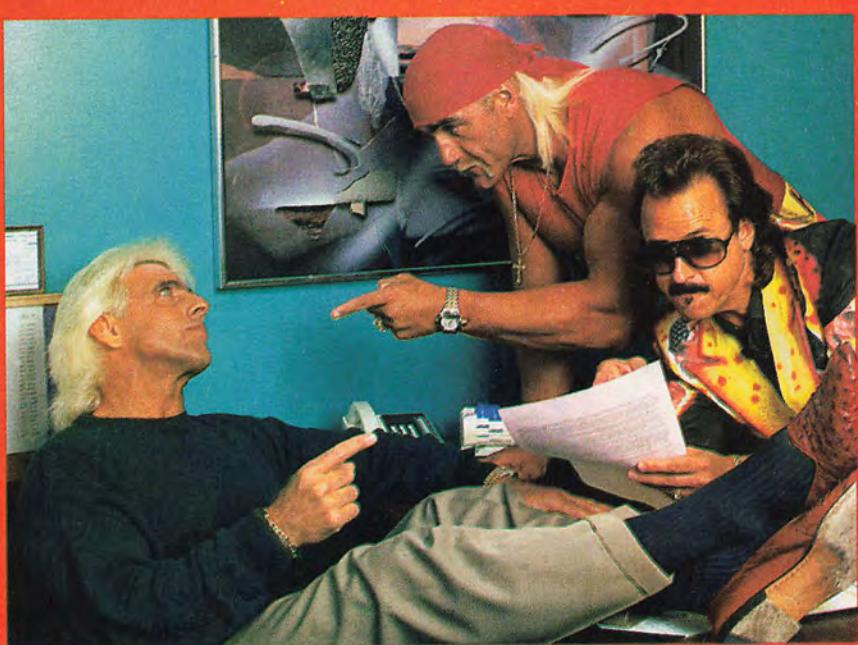
*Hulk Hogan and manager*

*Jimmy Hart had a private  
meeting when they visited  
Ric Flair's gym for a public  
appearance. Although  
nobody knows what they  
discussed, the trio gave*

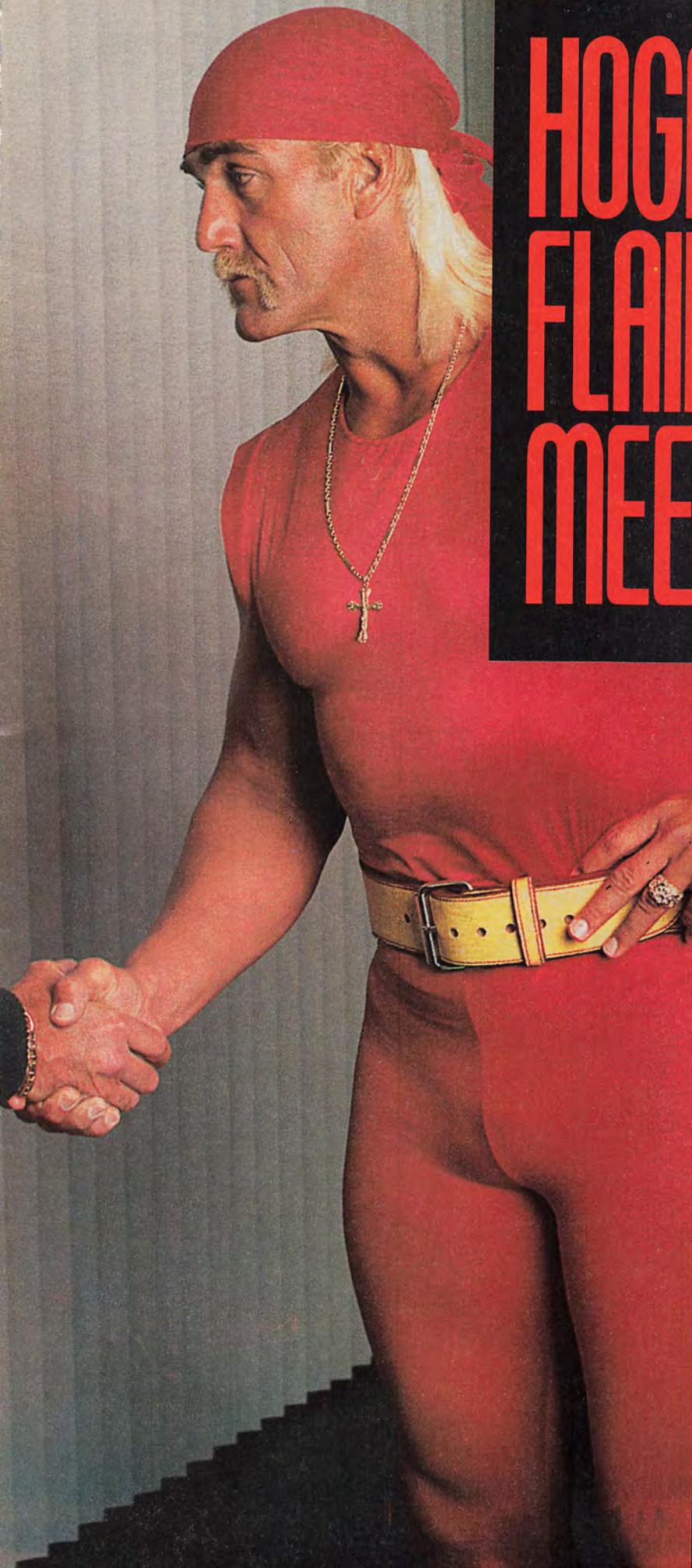
*PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED*

*food for thought*

They're the two greatest wrestlers of their generation—skilled, charismatic, beloved. Imagine the impact if Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan decided to join forces! It's now a distinct possibility.



Flair and Hogan try to iron out a minor difficulty, while Jimmy Hart examines the fine print of a proposed contract. An alliance among these three would give them unprecedented clout with federations and promoters.



# HOGAN AND FLAIR'S SECRET MEETING . . .

AND PWI WAS  
THERE!

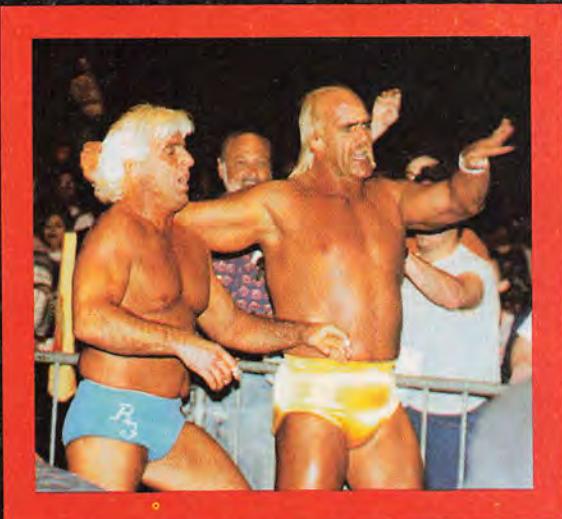
By Dave Rosenbaum

**R**IC FLAIR LEARNED his lesson a long time ago: Burning bridges isn't a good idea from a business standpoint. This might sound like an unusual realization for a man who has made more enemies than nearly anyone else in wrestling, but it's actually a sign of Flair's people skills.

"I make sure all my opponents know nothing that goes on between us is personal," he said. "It's all in the game."

How else would Flair have been able to put together the Superpower Summit to end all Superpower Summits. If we thought it was news when Hulk Hogan and Sting met for over an hour in Japan last year, just imagine our surprise when we found Hogan, manager Jimmy Hart, and Flair in front of our cameras ... together!

And they were speaking in a civilized manner.



When Flair was in the WWF, he battled Hogan several times. Even while both were in different federations, they've always had a rivalry. Yet each respects the other's accomplishments, both in and out of the ring.



Hogan ostensibly visited Charlotte to promote Flair's gym. Once the public display was over, the two joined Hart to discuss the possibilities of teaming up.

When the picture-taking to promote Flair's gym in Charlotte, North Carolina, was done, the trio retired to a backroom for nearly 45 minutes. They emerged smiling and silent, unwilling to divulge the contents of their extraordinary meeting.

Hogan and Hart were there to help their old WWF comrade—"One hand washes the

other," Hart explained cryptically to a friend—but there was far more to this day than met the eye.

Speculation is raging throughout wrestling's inner circles that Hogan, Hart, and Flair talked about forming a high-powered organization of the sport's greatest stars. There may, in fact, be a connection between the Hogan-Flair-Hart get-together and Hogan's meeting with Sting in Japan last spring. If these four are on the verge of competing under one banner, they would surely put all other stables to shame ... including Flair's own Four Horsemen.

They would also have tremendous bargaining power. Would they wrestle in WCW, the WWF, in a Japanese federation, or in all three? Hogan-Sting-Flair-Hart would have so much power that they could force the WWF and WCW into a share agreement. Federation heads would no longer be in the position to set agendas.

"It's an incredible concept," agreed Bill Watts, WCW's former vice-president of wrestling operations. "Promoters have always worried about the day when the wrestlers call all of the shots. If these four men got together, they could basically do whatever they wanted. They'd make the rules."

It's as if an Olympic-style "dream team" decided to form its own NBA franchise, or if a baseball team rounded up Barry Bonds, Greg Maddux, Juan Gonzalez, and Joe Carter. The possibilities are mind-boggling.

Hogan and Flair are nearing the ends of great careers.

Hogan has, in fact, retired and unretired at least twice. Only under very special conditions would he unretire again. Flair, having accomplished all he set out to do, needs something different to keep himself interested.

Sting has a different motivation; he's a peak performer doing very well on his own. Nonetheless, he couldn't resist the opportunity to team with Hogan and Flair.

Hart hasn't had much to do as a manager over the past year or so, and he knows Hogan won't wrestle too much longer. However, he could use the prestige of the "Hulkster," Flair's

innumerable contacts, and Sting's reputation in the wrestling community to recruit younger stars into the fold. Who wouldn't want to be associated with them?

Several insiders have speculated that Sting is no longer part of the package, and it may be why he wasn't invited. Flair, Hogan, and Hart might form their own team, or they could recruit two more "Horsemen." Possibilities include Lex Luger, Davey Boy Smith, and even The Ultimate Warrior, who's in early retirement and is, like Hogan, seeking success on the film and TV circuit.

Flair laughed at the speculation.

"You boys are getting ahead of yourselves," Flair said. "You're taking wishes and hoping they come true. Hulk and Jimmy did me a favor, that's all. We went back to my office to speak because the three of us don't get together too often. We're not getting together. I don't even know if it would work."

Flair has a point. The California Angels used free agency to put together a team of high-priced superstars. They won three American League West titles over an eight-year span, but a World Series game has yet to be played in Anaheim. The New York Rangers, despite their spending, haven't won a Stanley Cup since—shout it, Islanders and Devils fans!—

1940. The Minnesota Vikings traded away their future for Herschel Walker and never saw the slightest return.

"The Four Horsemen are the greatest team that ever lived," Flair said. "Learn from history. Appreciate what you saw. Quit dreaming. That's good advice, boys."

Maybe. Hart and Hogan wouldn't comment on anything related to their meeting with Flair. Sting has also been silent on the issue. Several WCW and WWF wrestlers said they had no insight on the meeting and heard no rumors of a Flair-Hogan-Hart get-together.

That doesn't mean it won't happen. Hogan, stung by media criticism and reports of steroid abuse, carefully guards his privacy. Hart has stood by him, but has done little else lately related to wrestling. Flair likes to tease. As a practice, Sting doesn't disclose private discussions to the media.

We have been left in a listen-and-wait situation. For now, all we have are pictures. Food for thought. Grizzle for the rumor mill. Delicious anticipation.

Just eat it up. □

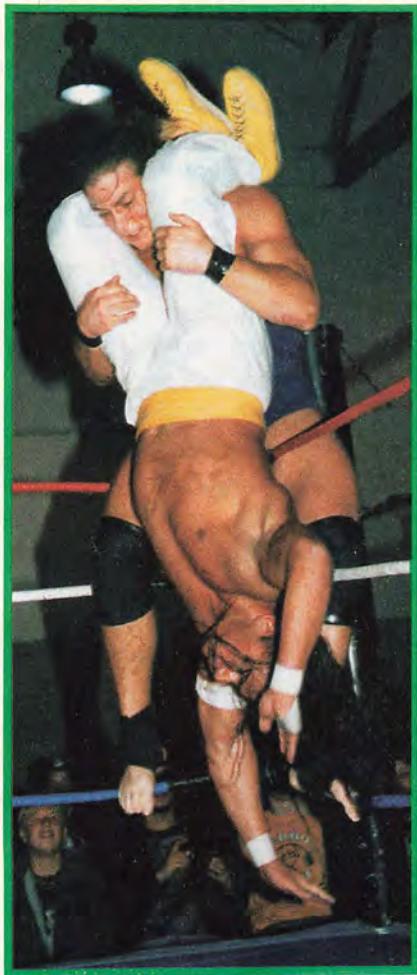
If Flair and Hogan are to form some sort of united front, Hart will have to play a crucial role in keeping peace between two men who are as well-known for their immense egos as they are for their ring success.



ROB  
VAN  
DAM  
VS  
SABU

# ROB VAN DAM VS SABU

Though only semi-active for the past several months, Rob Van Dam jumped at the opportunity to wrestle Sabu, whom many consider to be the best young flyer in the sport.



Before Van Dam can launch his attack from the turnuckles, Sabu flips toward him and in one swift motion takes him down with a flying headscissors.

Rob Van Dam had heard a lot about Sabu, and wanted to discover for himself just how good the wild youngster really is. What he found out was enough to make him realize that maybe semi-retirement isn't such a bad thing!

By Andy Rodriguez

**R**OB VAN DAM is no dummy. Ask anyone who knows him to describe him and they will tell you that he is one of the most thoughtful and intelligent competitors in the business. His ring style may be reckless at times, they say, but his actions are planned out very carefully.

They swear that Van Dam knew precisely what he was doing when he determined he wanted to wrestle Sabu. Though



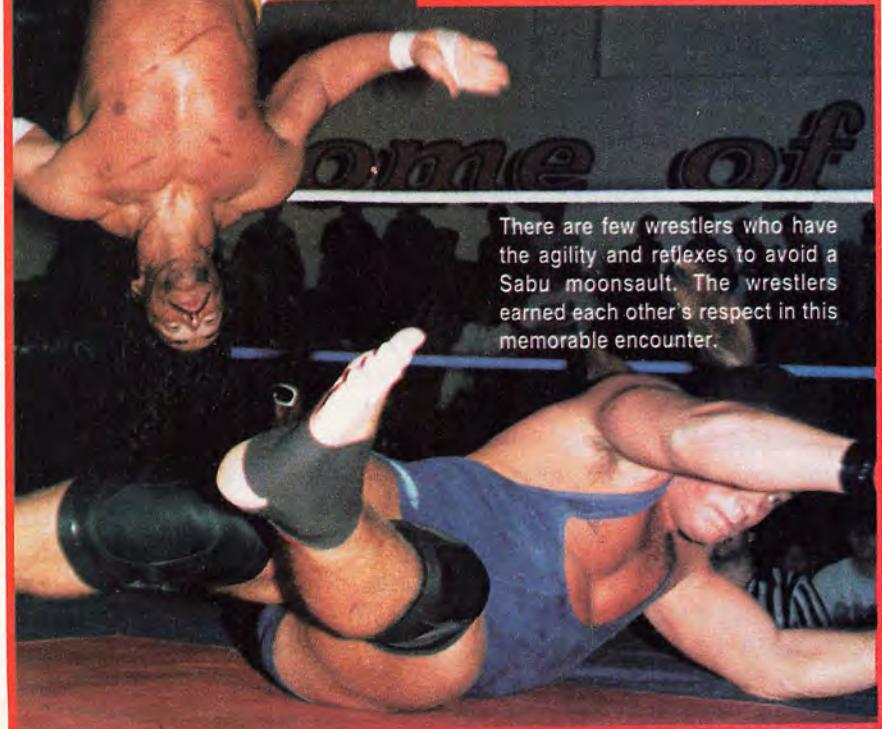
in a sort of self-imposed semi-retirement, Van Dam keeps close watch on the wrestling world. He had heard much about Sabu. He knew that Sabu is a reckless and dangerous competitor, and a talented one.

Even with that in mind, Van Dam decided he needed to wrestle Sabu. He wanted to prove to himself and to others that he had what it took to defeat this unpredictable, wild wrestler.

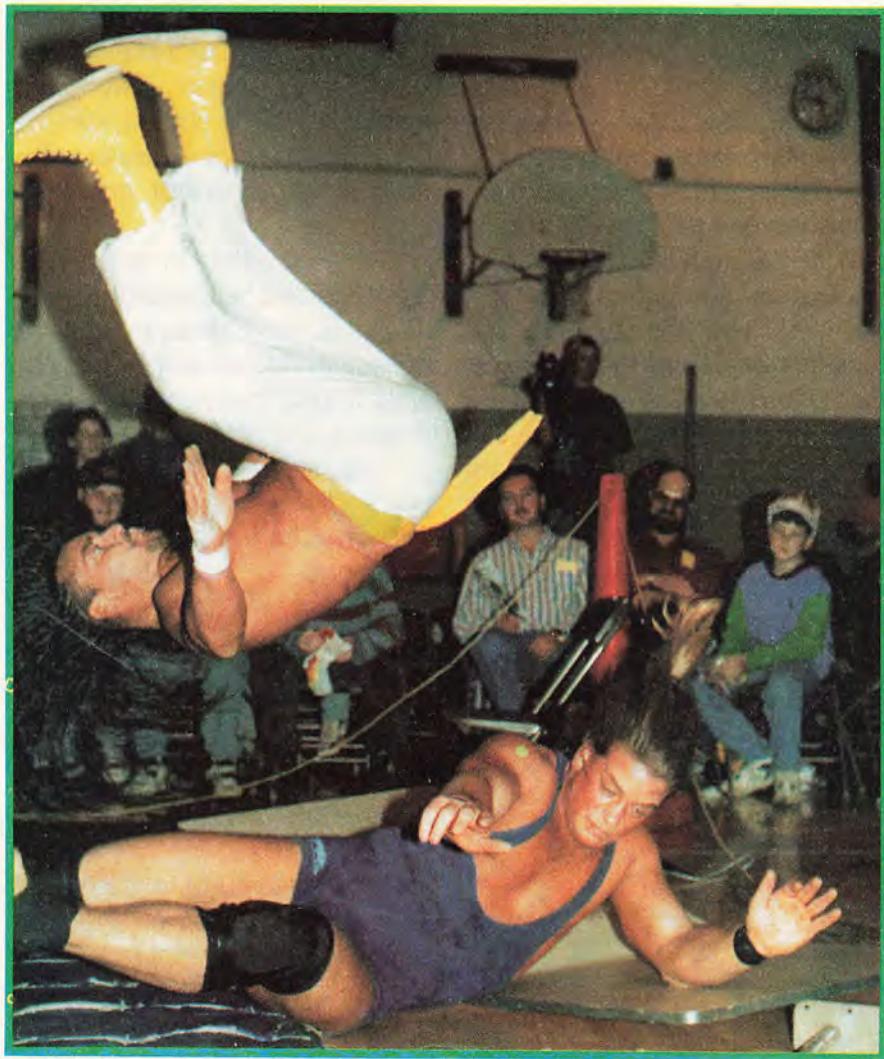
"The challenge was what I craved," Van Dam said. "Everyone of us in this sport craves a challenge. I knew that Sabu would test me like I've never been tested before. Besides, with me not wrestling a full-time schedule anymore, people begin to wonder if I'm still the daring high-flyer they've been seeing all these years. I had to show them that I was."

So Van Dam got in touch with a Michigan promoter and persuaded him to attempt to sign the match. It turned out that wasn't much of a problem at all.

"Sabu really wanted this one,"



There are few wrestlers who have the agility and reflexes to avoid a Sabu moonsault. The wrestlers earned each other's respect in this memorable encounter.



It simply wouldn't be a Sabu match without a broken table! Action spilled outside the ring, and the two devastated a metal table lying nearby.

said an associate of his. "I think he wanted it almost as much as Van Dam did. Sabu's heard plenty about Van Dam. He knew his reputation well. That gave him plenty of motivation. He was motivated to destroy whatever reputation Van Dam has built."

As fans filed into the gymnasium for this special encounter, they knew nothing of the pre-match preparations undertaken by both men. Those preparations underscored the differences between them. While Van Dam did calisthenics, Sabu banged his head against the wall. While Van Dam ate a well-balanced meal, Sabu hurriedly wolfed down a package of uncooked ramen noo-

dles, the kind sold for 15 cents apiece at supermarkets.

"Boy, won't this be a fun night?" said a backstage attendant.

However, while the two may have different ring philosophies and different outlooks on life in general, they both are among wrestling's greatest aerialists. They would demonstrate that well during this highly anticipated encounter.

Van Dam executed the match's first memorable maneuver, nailing Sabu with a legdrop off the top rope. The move excited the crowd, and enraged the maniacal Sabu, who suddenly seemed even more determined to make Van Dam pay for the mistake of

challenging him.

Sabu achieved his revenge fairly quickly, when he caught Van Dam with a sensational Frankensteiner that even Scott Steiner and Marty Jannetty would have given high marks.

"See," said one ringside fan to his companion, "Sabu isn't all that crazy. It takes brains to do a Frankensteiner like that."

Van Dam would later admit that the move made him even more respectful of Sabu's abilities. But that's what he said after the match. During it, he was just looking to survive.

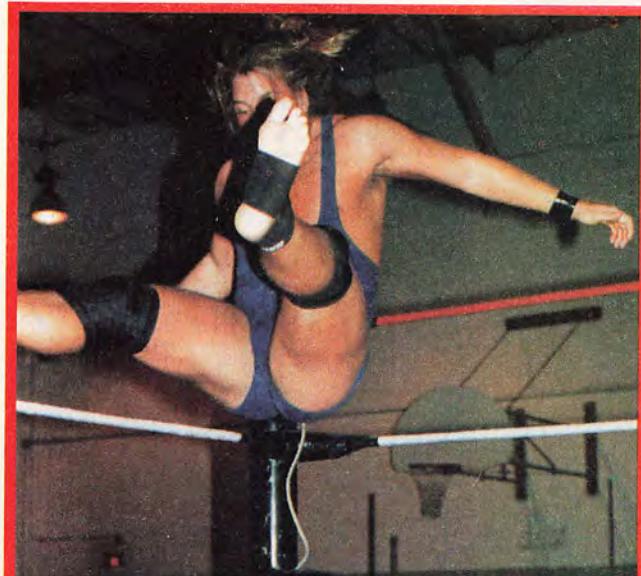
After avoiding Sabu's attempt to flip on him from the top rope, Van Dam became more daring. When Sabu wandered out of the ring, Van Dam executed a flip of his own from the ring right out to the floor. Sabu was stunned mentally as well as physically.

"I did not think he would come at me in that fashion," he later said through an interpreter. "Only after that was I prepared for anything he might do."

Certainly he was prepared for Van Dam's sunset flip pin attempt. The maneuver was done brilliantly, but Sabu refused to lose to it. More painful to him was the flying bodypress Van Dam used against him.

"That was one of the best bodypresses I've ever done," Van Dam offered later. "After that, I really felt like I had him where I wanted him."

But who can ever really say he has Sabu where he wants him? Years of training by The Sheik have made Sabu doubly dangerous when it looks as though he's ready to go down for the final time. If Van Dam didn't realize that before the match, he did when Sabu started beating on him with a chair. The more Van Dam struggled, the more intense-



Van Dam performs a legdrop, and Sabu tries to get out of the way. He later called Van Dam "a fine wrestler," and said he wouldn't mind a rematch.

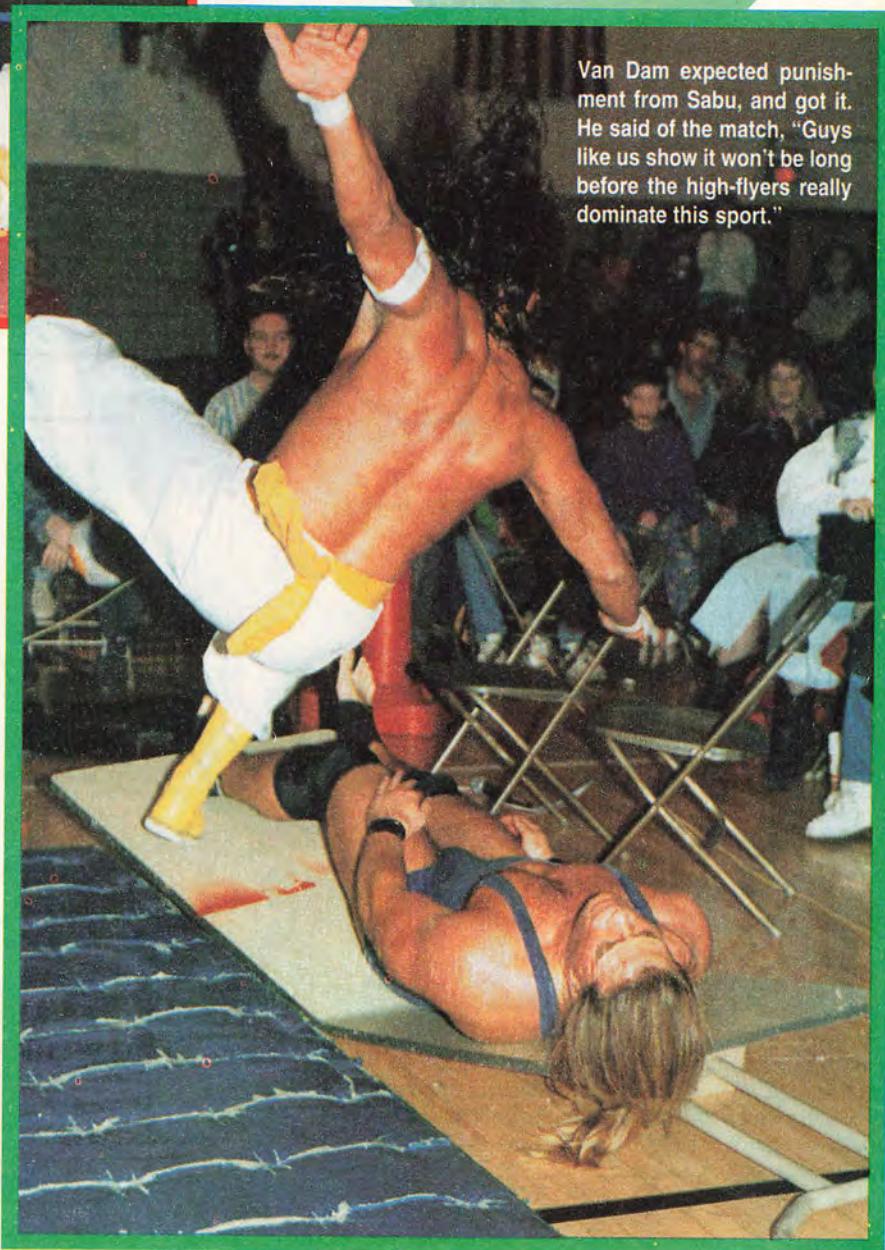


ly Sabu pummeled him.

Still, Sabu would rather display his ring skills than use foreign objects. Once again, he went airborne, flipping onto Van Dam from the ring to the floor. It was such a powerful maneuver that fans seated many rows back appeared to wince in pain when Sabu came crashing down.

Van Dam had taken the match because he wanted to experience for himself if the crazed Sabu truly lived up to his reputation. Van Dam answered in the affirmative quite willingly.

"I know that out there tonight he and I put on quite a show," said Van Dam. "Guys like us show it won't be long before the high-flyers really dominate this sport. He is every bit as good as they said he was, even better. Of course, he resorts to rulebreaking too easily, but I expected he would. I also think I didn't see half



Van Dam expected punishment from Sabu, and got it. He said of the match, "Guys like us show it won't be long before the high-flyers really dominate this sport."

the craziness he's capable of."

Sabu returned the compliment, sort of.

"Van Dam is a fine wrestler," he said, "but tonight I proved who was the greater. I proved myself a better wrestler and a superior risk-taker. Go ahead and ask Van Dam if he would like a rematch."

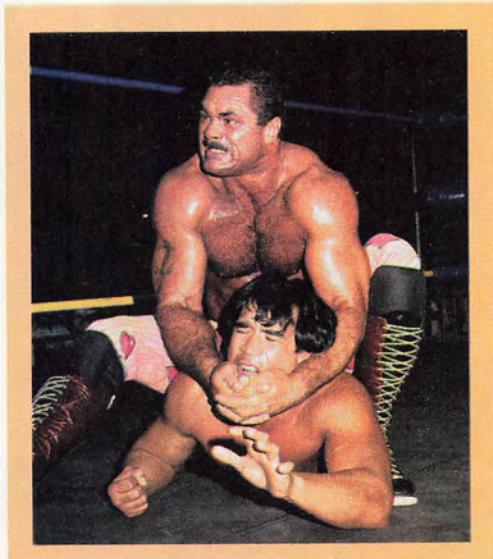
We did. The answer?

"First of all," he responded. "I'm not full-time, and second, I've satisfied my curiosity about him. But if he wants another go ... I'm ready."

Is that an air-raid siren we hear? □

# Are Fans' Cheers In His Future?

THE  
STORY  
RICK RUDE  
DOESN'T  
WANT  
YOU TO  
READ



Every now and then, Rick is no longer Rude. In fact, the "Ravishing One" can occasionally be downright thoughtful and perceptive on important social issues of the day, much like his opponent, fan favorite Rick Steamboat.

**"Rick Rude" and "role**

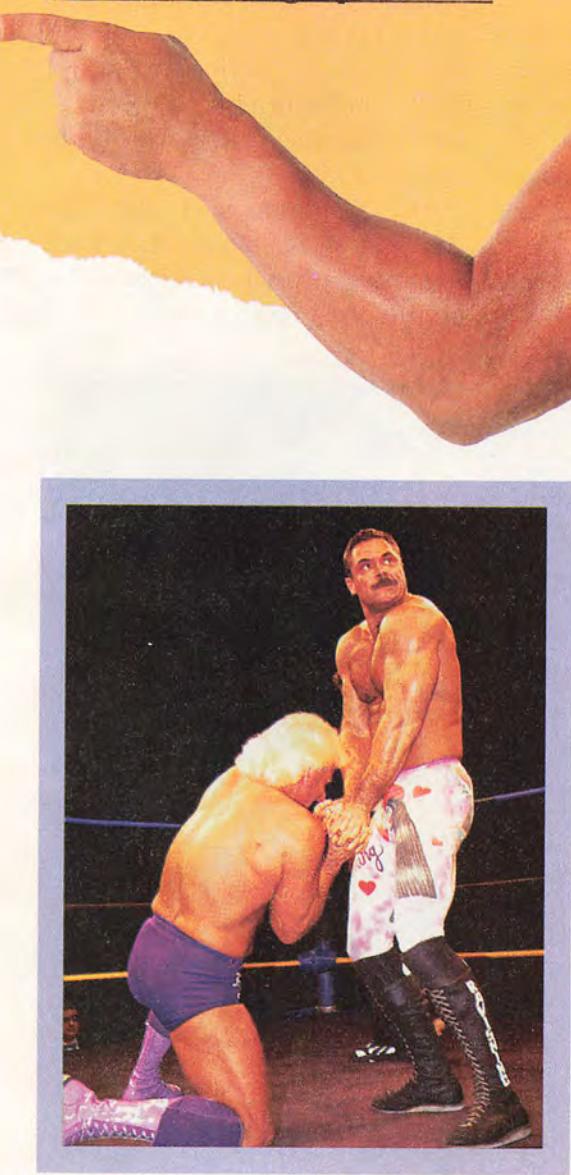
**model" would seem to**

**be mutually exclusive**

**phrases. But at times, he**

**can be far different than**

**his "Ravishing" persona.**

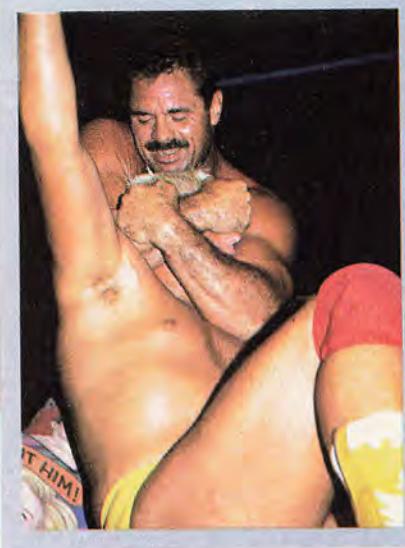


Would Ric Flair be somewhat more tolerant of Rude if his tights featured a message telling kids to stay in school, instead of expressing lust for Fifi, Flair's maid?



*(Editor's note: This first-person piece was faxed to us by Senior Writer Eddie Ellner. We initially hesitated to print it, as we weren't sure this conversation took place on the record. But it's so revealing, so unlike Rick Rude, that we felt obligated to run it.)*

SOMETIMES THE JOB takes you places that make you feel guilty about cashing a paycheck. Tonight I am sunk into a leather chair at Angelika's, a Santa Monica hotspot offering 32 varieties of "smart drinks"—herb cocktails alleged to increase intelligence, perception, and libido. Not to mention increased attraction to an array of beautiful women, many of whom can't keep their eyes off my table. Though I am looking sharp in a new haircut and "Grunge Kills" tank-top, I must admit some of the attention is directed toward my tablemate, his divine grace, "Ravishing" Rick Rude. **ELLNER:** Look at all these women. They're, they're ... **RUDE:** ... a dime a dozen. **EE:** A what? Jeez, Rick. You can't be



**Beating Dustin Rhodes may not be enough for Rude these days. He briefly considered changing his "Ravishing" persona, repositioning himself as a champion of children.**

that jaded. Look at the blonde over there. I mean, I would, I don't know—perhaps surrender a limb to talk to her.

**RR:** Watch this. (*Rude strolls over to the blonde's table. He takes her hand to his lips and gently kisses it. I'm thinking: This is the '90's, she's gonna slug him. She stands up, grabs Rude's head, and presses his lips to hers. A major kiss. A screen kiss. She thanks him—thanks him!—and leaves. As Rude returns to the table, I realize I am in the presence of a sinister and alien force.*)

**EE:** What did she thank you for?

**RR:** It's hard to explain. Some people can add large figures in their heads ...

**EE:** You just pick up great figures at bars.

**RR:** Never run from your talent. (*We turned our attention to the TV. A four-year-old child wearing a "Cop Killer" T-shirt was being escorted from his pre-school. He had brought a small handgun to his show-and-tell class.*)

**RR:** Turn the sound up. (*One of those heavy-handed anchormen exercised his baritone.*)

**TV ANNOUNCER:** When asked where he got the gun, the child told police his nine-year-old brother told

him that Ice Cube, a popular rap star, said it's time "young brothers took care of business." When asked where his parents were, the little boy began to cry. It was later determined his parents hadn't been home in four days. In Washington, a Senate subcommittee met to consider banning the sales of "gangsta rap" and other explicit audio and video material to children under 12 years of age.

**EE:** That's ridiculous.

**RR:** Four years old. That kid. He was *four years old*.

**EE:** And his parents should be arrested for child abuse.

**RR:** It's not gonna help him. He's still gonna listen to the same music. He's still gonna be influenced by the same images.

**EE:** Education starts in the home. It's the responsibility of the parent to—

**RR:** But if there are no parents, then whose responsibility is it?

**EE:** What are you saying?

**RR:** When the family breaks down, all you have are role models. If these kids worship singers telling them to go kill cops, that's what they're going to do. No one's around telling them to grow up to be wrestlers and firemen like our parents did. (*We sipped our "smart cocktails" in silence.*)

**RR:** Maybe I should change my ways.

**EE:** How so?

**RR:** It's time I took my fame seriously. I'm in a position of influence. Maybe I should paint a message on my tights, like "Stay In School," or something.

**EE:** That really would be different.

**RR:** I have a responsibili-

ty. Children watch me. They want to be like me. What kind of message am I sending out there?

**EE:** Love. You're expressing great love.

**RR:** For who? My opponent's wife?

**EE:** Love is love.

**RR:** I'm serious. I'm gonna change. No more "Ravishing Rick." No more womanizing. From now on I'm Rick Rude, champion of children.

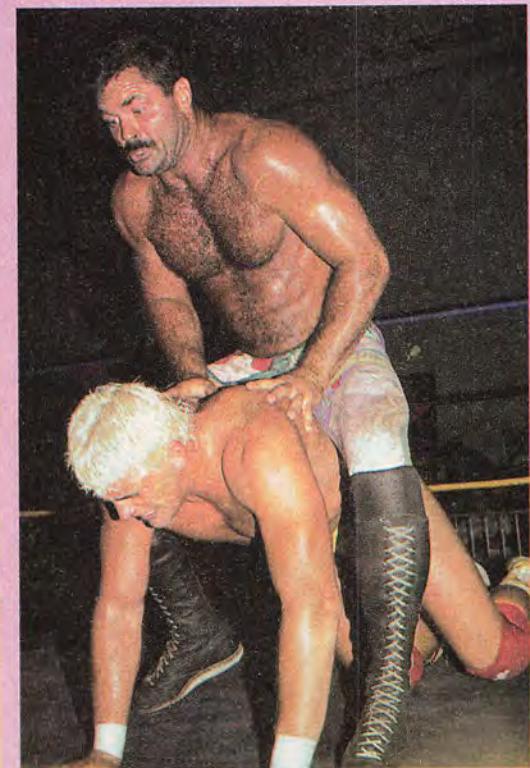
**EE:** I think you've had too much flaxseed oil. (*At that moment, another blonde walked into the bar, a blonde so blonde she made the other one look brunette. The ultra-blonde zeroed in on Rude, who stopped in mid-preach.*)

**RR:** What was I saying?

**EE:** I don't remember.

**RR:** Good. Keep it that way. I'll be right back.

He never came back. But I got the scoop of the month: Rick Rude does have a social conscience—but only in certain places. □



**Rick Rude may be a rulebreaker, but even he is aghast at what is happening to kids today. He is aware that he's a role model, and wants to do all he can to help society.**

# close-up:

# THE NASTY BOYS

THE NASTY BOYS, Jerry Sags and Brian Knobs, are the WCW World tag team champions ... Knew each other from their boyhood days in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where they were bullies from working-class families ... Both played football and wrestled in high school ... Knobs wrestled in the Army; Sags played football and wrestled at Ferrum College in Virginia ... Both were kicked out for getting into too many fights ... In 1985, trained for five months under Brad Rheingans at Verne Gagne's wrestling school ... Both debuted in singles competition later that year, and formed a tag team in 1986 ... Won the AWA Southern belts in 1987 and lost them to The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs on September 19 in Memphis ... Moved to the Florida Championship Wrestling area and won the tag title from Johnny Ace and The Terminator on November 5, 1988, in Nassau, Bahamas ... Lost the belts on January 26, 1989, in Tampa, Florida ... Won the belts three more times before leaving for a tour of New Zealand, Singapore, and Japan ... Returned to FCW and won the tag belts again, this time from Bounty Hunter I and Terminator on January 6, 1990, in Nassau ... Moved on to the North American Wrestling Association and won that tag title, too ... Briefly joined Robert Fuller's "Stud Stable" ... Lost the NAWA belts to The American Bulldogs and entered WCW ... Immediately launched a feud with Rick and Scott Steiner ... Brutally attacked the Steiners during the contract signing for the Steiners-Nastys match for Halloween Havoc '90 ... Slammed Scott through a table ... Lost the match to the Steiners at Halloween Havoc ...

In a rematch several days later, the Nastys jumped the Steiners and injured Scott's back, forcing him out of action ... Left WCW and made their WWF debut under manager Jimmy Hart on December 11, 1990, in Tampa ... Feuded with The Bushwhackers and former AWA rivals The Rockers ... On January 28, 1991, won a seven-team battle royal to earn the WWF World tag team title shot against The Hart Foundation at WrestleMania VII ... Won the belts, thanks to Jimmy Hart's interference ... Jim Neidhart had Knobs covered for the pin, Hart tossed Sags his motorcycle helmet, and Sags smashed it over Neidhart's head. Knobs pinned Neidhart ... Were challenged by The Legion of Doom, the last team they eliminated in the battle royal ... Lost the belts to Hawk and Animal at SummerSlam '91 on August 26 at Madison Square Garden ... All four were battling in the ring when Hawk threw Knobs to the arena floor ... Hart raced over to assist Knobs, and Hawk kicked him in the abdomen ... The force of the blow caused Hart to lose control of his

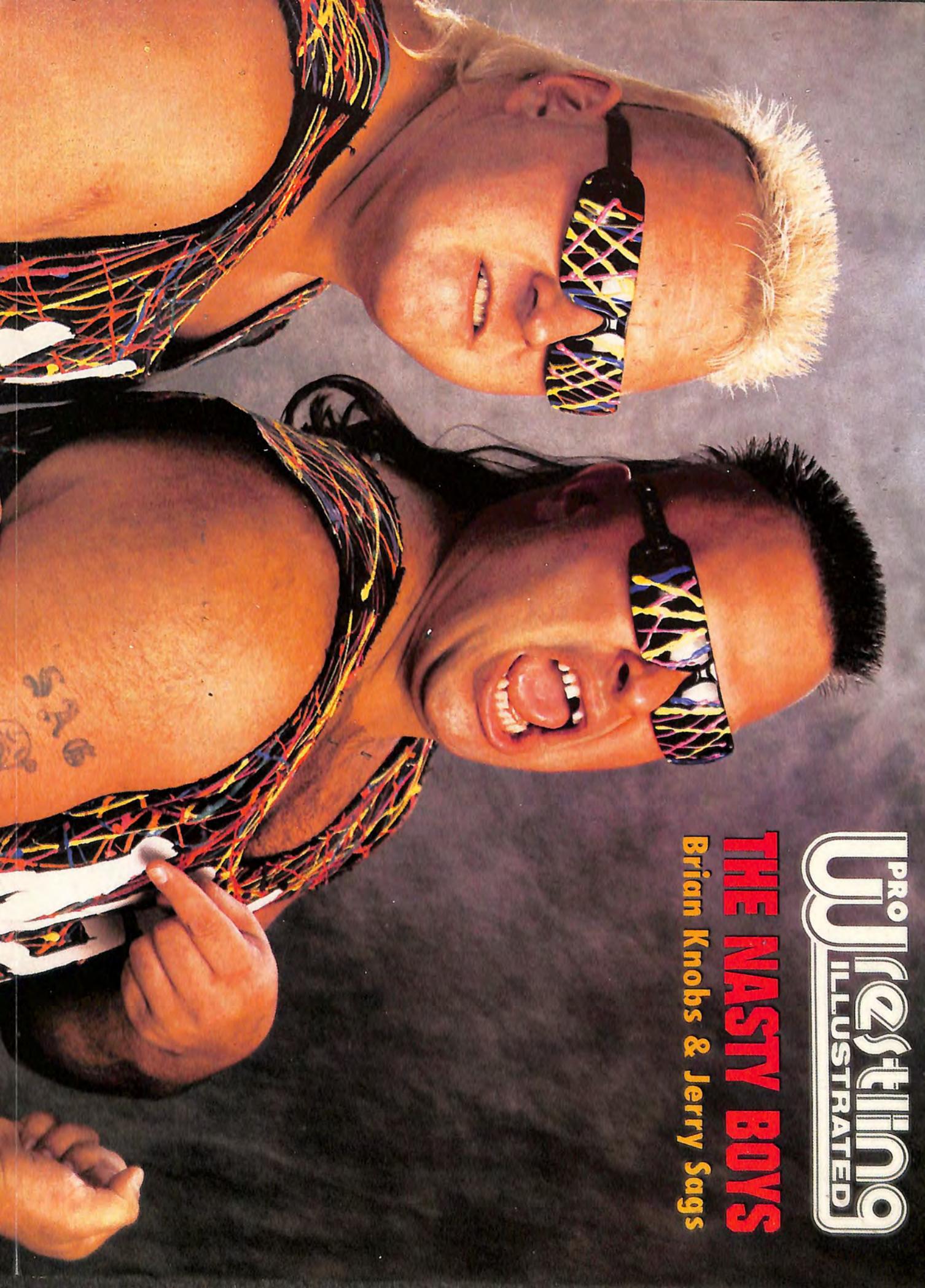
fiberglass motorcycle helmet, which landed in Hawk's hands ... Hawk smashed Knobs and Sags and Animal covered the nearly unconscious Sags for the pin ... Teamed with The Beverly Brothers to defeat The Bushwhackers and The Rockers at Survivor Series '91 ... Competed separately at Royal Rumble '92 ... Teamed with Repo Man and The Mountie and lost to Virgil, Big Bossman, Hacksaw Duggan, and Sgt. Slaughter at WrestleMania VIII ... Moved in and out of contention for the WWF World tag team belts while feuding with The Natural Disasters and High Energy ... Knobs and Sags were incensed when they were passed over for a match against World tag champions The Natural Disasters on October 13, 1992 ... Money Inc. received the shot ... The Nastys roughed up Irwin R. Schyster and Ted DiBiase before the match ... Money Inc. went on to win the belts ... Later in the evening, Knobs and Sags took out their frustration on Jimmy Hart, setting up a Nasty Boys and Disasters vs. Money Inc. and Beverly Brothers match at The Survivor Series ... With the fans in their corner for the first time, the Nastys and Disasters defeated Money Inc. and the Beverlys when Sags pinned Schyster ... Feuded with Money Inc. and Hart ... Despite defeating Money Inc. in nearly every match, the Nastys were passed over for the WrestleMania IX title shot in favor of Hulk Hogan and Brutus Beefcake ... Battled long-time rivals The Beverly Brothers at the big event ... Wrestled infrequently after

WrestleMania and returned to WCW in July ... Shot up the WCW ladder with victories over 2 Cold Scorpio and Marcus Alexander Bagwell ... Wrestled World tag team champions Arn Anderson and Paul Roma at Fall Brawl '93 on September 19 in Houston ... The first shocker of the night came when Missy Hyatt led Sags and Knobs to ringside ... The second shocker came when the Nastys, helped by Missy's interference, beat Anderson and Roma for the belts ... With the referee distracted, the Nastys double-teamed Roma and got the pin ... Their reign didn't last long ... Scorpio and Bagwell dethroned the Nastys on October 4 in Columbus, Georgia ... The Nastys regained the belts at Halloween Havoc on October 24 in a match marred by Hyatt's interference ... Sags blasted Scorpio with a boot and Knobs covered him for the pin just as referee Randy Anderson turned around ... With Hyatt at their side, Sags and Knobs are the meanest tag team in WCW. They're as nasty as they wanna be! □



SCUBA

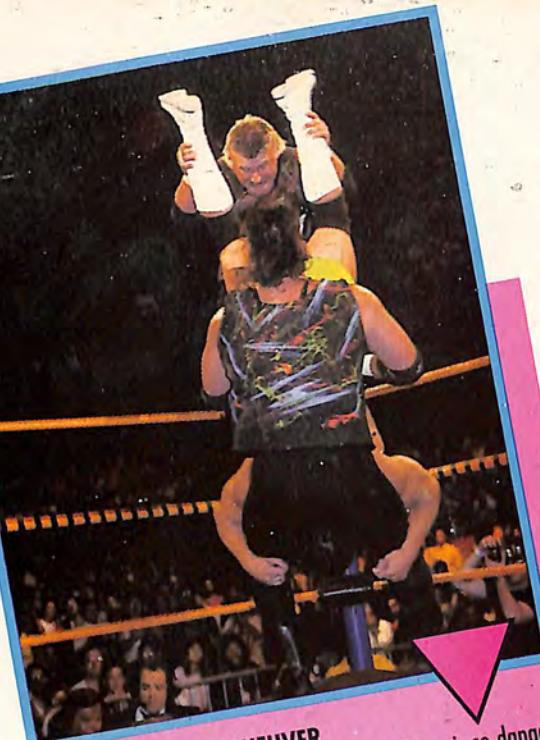




Brian Knobs & Jerry Sags

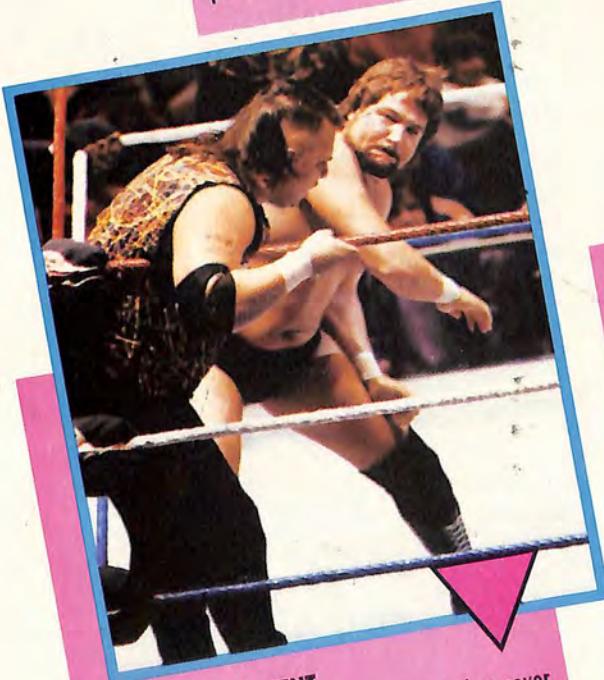
# THE NASTY BOYS

Pro  
Wrestling  
ILLUSTRATED



#### FAVORITE MANEUVER

**Spike piledriver.** An ordinary piledriver is so dangerous a maneuver that it draws an immediate disqualification in several federations. The Nastys take the maneuver to the nasty extreme by setting it up so that one of them (in this case Knobs) holds on to the opponent's legs while leaping off the top turnbuckle. Rarely will an individual escape a pin after absorbing such a blow.

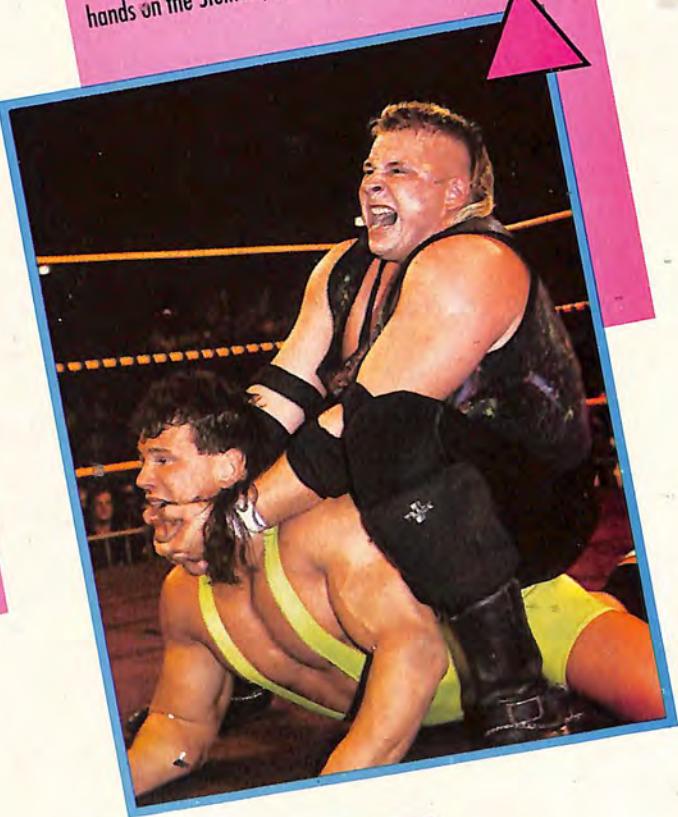


#### TOUGHEST OPPONENT

**Money Inc.** The Nastys tried and tried, but never won the WWF World tag team title from Irwin R. Schyster and Ted DiBiase. Sags and Knobs were somewhat blinded by their hate of former manager Jimmy Hart, who made sure Schyster and DiBiase kept the belts. This was a classic matchup of brawling vs. scientific wrestling and deviant behavior.

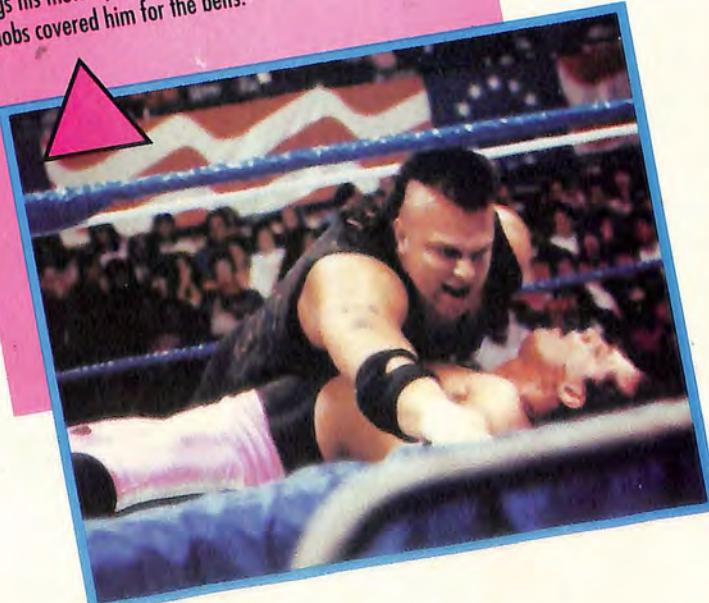
#### MOST HATED OPPONENTS

**Rick and Scott Steiner.** The Nastys never won the WCW World tag team title from the brothers in their first go-round, but Scott Steiner still feels the effects of the Nastys' attacks. Even when Sags and Knobs returned to WCW this past summer, they talked about getting their hands on the Steiners, who were still in the WWF.



#### GREATEST MATCH

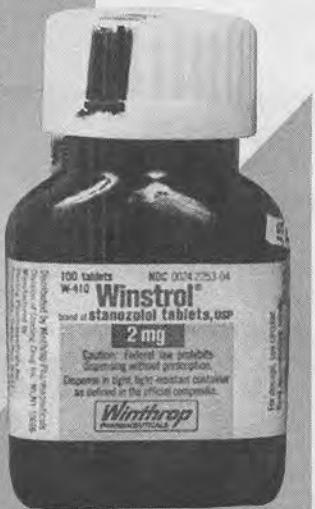
**Vs. The Hart Foundation, WrestleMania VII.** The Nastys collected their first major title with a surprising victory over Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart. Manager Jimmy Hart played a major role in the triumph, as he tossed Sags his motorcycle helmet. Sags used it on Neidhart, and Knobs covered him for the belts.



# THE WWF STEROID SCANDAL EXPLAINED: A CANDID Q & A

**The recent charges brought against Vince McMahon and Titan Sports have raised many questions. In this special feature, *Pro WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED* provides answers, clearing up misconceptions about steroids and their role in the sport**

Steroids have a legitimate medical purpose to help rebuild muscle mass while rehabilitating atrophied limbs. The drugs cannot be purchased without a prescription, and can cause dangerous side effects to people who abuse them.



**By Chris Bernucca**

**1. What are steroids?** Steroids are natural organic compounds that come from the fatty tissue of plants and animals. There are many different kinds of steroids; most have very high-tech sounding names, like Anavar and Deca-Durabolin. Steroids are manufactured in both an injectable liquid form and as an ingestible pill.

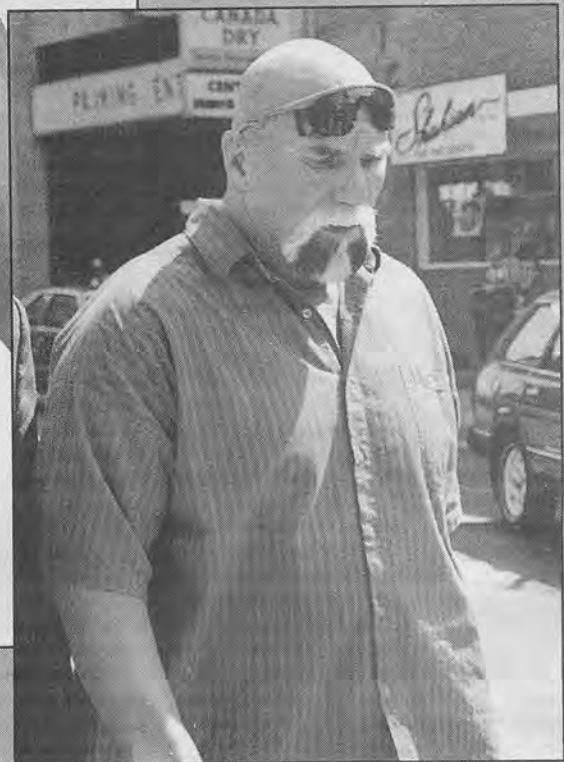
When properly prescribed, steroids are used to rebuild mass in an atrophied muscle. For example, if someone were to lose the use of a limb for a period of time, the muscles in that limb, however soft or hard, would grow softer and decrease in size. Steroids, combined with physical therapy and proper diet, would help restore the lost muscle mass.

Steroids cannot be purchased without a prescription from a physician. Use of steroids without a prescription is not only illegal but very dangerous, because they have serious side effects. Some of them are irritability, chronic acne, hair loss, sterility, cholesterol buildup, damage to the endocrine system





Former WWF World champion Superstar Graham has admitted to using steroids while competing, and says they have led to serious health problems. Graham, now 50, testified in 1991 that he had purchased steroids from a WWF physician.



(which assists in digestion), liver problems, tumors, strokes, and even heart attacks. Women taking steroids risk irreversible masculinizing effects. In short, someone taking steroids without a doctor's prescription is simply playing with his or her life.

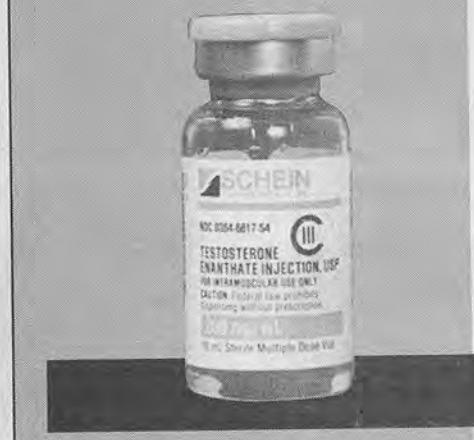
**2. Why would wrestlers use steroids?** Wrestlers would use steroids in order to increase muscle mass and become bigger and stronger. When used in

concert with a weight training regimen and a diet high in carbohydrates, steroids can add pounds to a person in just weeks.

Steroids increase fatty tissue on muscles, which can be enhanced and hardened by weight training. If there is more fatty tissue to work out, it stands to reason that there will be more muscle following the workout. Adherence to a diet and weight

program can transfer much of the fatty tissue into hardened muscle mass. There are many ways to gain weight and increase muscle size; the use of steroids perhaps produces the quickest visible results.

It should be noted that wrestlers aren't the only athletes who would be inclined to use steroids. Football players, many of them offensive linemen who need mass and strength to pro-



tect quarterbacks and push around defenders, have admitted to using steroids.

However, steroid use is not restricted to oversized athletes. Many track and field stars have tested positive for steroids, including Ben Johnson, the Canadian sprinter who used steroids and a training program to eclipse the world record in the 100 meters at the 1988 Summer Olympics. He later tested positive for steroids and was stripped of his gold medal and world record. After a two-year ban, Johnson returned to competition but never approached his world-record time, indicating the effectiveness of his steroid use.

**3. How do steroids affect wrestlers?** Regardless of appearance, wrestlers are not supermen. They are affected by steroids in the same fashion as anyone else. Aside from their fat-soluble content, steroids also contain hormones, which can affect a person both physically and emotionally. When people inject or ingest steroids without the guidance of a doctor's prescription, they are subjecting themselves to all of the side effects mentioned in the answer to the first question.

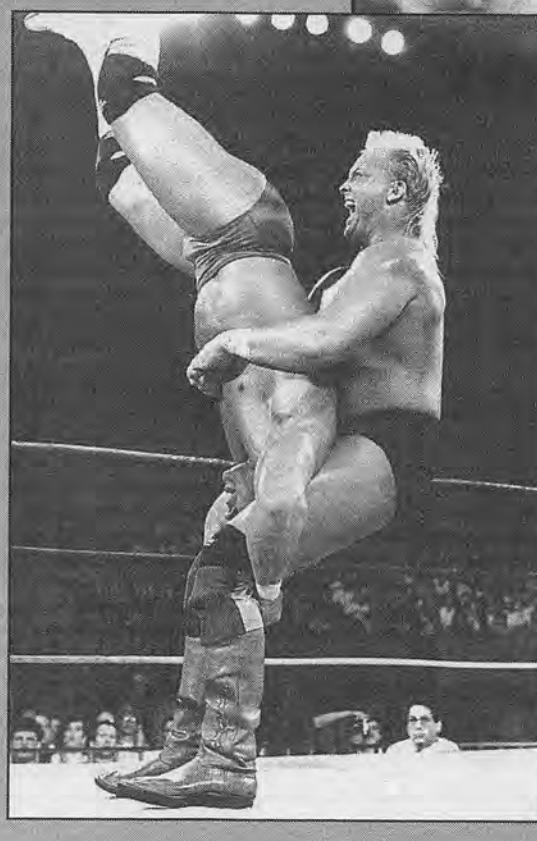
One of the most typical side effects is known as "roid rage." The irritability in a chronic steroid abuser can build to the point of mayhem, where the user lashes out verbally and physically at the slightest inconvenience or problem for no apparent reason. Edginess and hostility are usually two of the main personality traits in a person who abuses steroids.

**4. What are the steroid laws and how have they changed?** Steroids have *always* been classified as a prescription drug

under federal law and cannot be dispensed without a valid medical prescription from a licensed physician. Prior to 1988, some physicians freely prescribed steroids to patients without acknowledging that they were in

In 1988, in response to a proliferation of incidents involving illegal steroid distribution to athletes, Congress developed and passed legislation prohibiting both possession of steroids with intent to distribute and the distri-

In 1991, Rick Martel (right) and Dan Spivey (below) both testified they had purchased steroids Dr. George Zahorian, a former WWF ringside physician.



fact for the treatment of a disease or condition. Many athletes were receiving steroids for no reason other than to increase muscle mass to look better or to gain a competitive edge.

bution of steroids for any purpose other than the treatment of disease in humans. It was these laws that in 1991 ultimately convicted Dr. George Zahorian, a former WWF ringside physician

in Pennsylvania who was brought to trial on charges of illegally distributing steroids to WWF wrestlers and employees, including Vince McMahon.

#### 5. Why has the federal government targeted the WWF?

The federal government is not picking on the WWF. It has built its case based on evidence stemming from the Zahorian trial, receipts of purchases, transfers, and mailings, and the repeated claims of former WWF wrestlers like Bruno Sammartino and David Shultz. Sammartino has steadfastly maintained that he and his son, David, were run out of the WWF because of his son's unwillingness to take steroids; McMahon has denied the charge. Shultz has said he and Hulk Hogan took steroids numerous times, a claim Hogan denies.

**6. Could this mean the end of the WWF?** It is highly unlikely that the WWF would go out of business because of the steroid scandal, although it would certainly suffer some financial setbacks. The federal government is attempting to seize Titan Tower, the corporate headquarters of the WWF in Stamford, Connecticut, because it alleges the facility was used to commit the violations. That would be a major setback for the federation and could jeopardize its future, but is highly unlikely at this time.

The WWF derives most of its income from two sources: the merchandising of its products like figurines, video games, and sportswear, and revenue from its four (or more) annual pay-per-view events. Television contracts and gate receipts from arena shows are secondary sources of income, although both serve an important role in generating the prime sources of



Vince McMahon Jr. was the mastermind behind the WWF's spectacular rise during the 1980s. The steroid indictment could damage the federation, and a conviction may lead to the seizure of its Connecticut headquarters.

income. The USA cable network and syndicated local programming allow the WWF to promote upcoming pay-per-view events. Arena shows provide the federation with souvenir stands to sell WWF-related products.

There are some fans who will become disenchanted with the WWF and turn their backs on the federation. Others will remain loyal to the federation and continue their support. The majority of the WWF's fan base

is children, some of whom are too young to understand the dangers and moral implications of steroid use. It will be up to the parents of these youngsters to act responsibly and make the right decision for their children.

There will certainly be a decrease in fan support, thus lowering total revenues. But the WWF will probably not go out of business.

**7. Will Vince McMahon go to jail?** Vince McMahon has

been indicted, which means the federal government has presented enough evidence against him to justify bringing him to trial. That does not mean McMahon is guilty of any wrongdoing. As with anyone charged with a crime in a court of law in the U.S., he is innocent until proven guilty.

McMahon, who has pleaded innocent, has two options. He may proceed with a trial, hopeful and confident that his lawyers will prove his innocence, or at

the very least disprove his guilt. Or he may have his lawyers try to come to an arrangement with the federal government, otherwise known as a plea bargain. In this probable scenario, McMahon would offer a plea of guilty to some of the lesser charges against him in exchange for a lesser sentence than the one imposed upon him would he be found guilty in a trial.

As the head of a major corporation who makes important

decisions every day, McMahon cannot afford to be away from the WWF for any prolonged length of time. If he did agree to a plea bargain, a possible scenario would be for him to ask for no imprisonment in exchange for a long probationary period and fines. The government may agree to such terms, or it may insist that he serve some period of time in a minimum-security or medium-security federal penitentiary. However, if McMahon goes to trial and is found guilty, he could serve years in prison.

#### **8. What does this mean for WCW and other federations?**

If the federal government followed the scent from the Zahorian trial to McMahon and the WWF, you can bet that other federations would not be immune. Many former WWF wrestlers now compete in WCW, but that does not mean that every wrestler takes steroids. WCW claims to have a steroid testing program in place. However, it is rumored that some of WCW's wrestlers have been allowed to compete despite testing positive for steroids.

Although none of the smaller federations have ever been rocked by a steroid scandal, their existence depends mightily on the fortunes of the WWF and WCW. Promotions like the USWA and Smoky Mountain Wrestling do not have the national recognition factor that the WWF and WCW have. In fact, it is only through their association with the major federations that many fans are aware of them at all. The success of a wrestling promotion depends on fan support. Without the larger promotions leading the way, the USWA and SMW could be in severe difficulty. □



Zahorian, who was convicted in 1991 of illegally distributing steroids to wrestlers and other WWF personnel, has been named as an unindicted co-conspirator in the McMahon indictment.



# arena reports

The results in "Arena Reports" are culled from a month's worth of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* newsletters. Readers of *PWI Weekly* received these results just days after the cards took place. If you would like to subscribe to *PWI Weekly*, see the ad elsewhere in this issue. If you would like to join professional wrestling's largest network of correspondents, write to: "Arena Report" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.



## UNITED STATES

### CALIFORNIA

VICTORVILLE—IWA: Don Juan beat Larry Ludden ... Victoria Morena defeated Barbara Blaze ... Mr. Outrageous beat Thunder Machine ... Tito Santana defeated Rick Martel by disqualification ... Brutus Beefcake beat Nailz ... Barbara Blaze & Thunder Machine defeated Victoria Morena & Mr. Outrageous.

(11-19-93)

—Daryl Allison

### CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD—WWF at the Civic Center: Adam Bomb pinned The Kid ... Rick & Scott Steiner defeated Quebecer Jacques & Johnny Polo when Rick pinned Polo ... Diesel pinned Bob Backlund ... World champion Yokozuna pinned The Undertaker ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon pinned Irwin R. Schyster ... Lex Luger beat Ludvig Borga by disqualification after Borga hit the referee ... The Headshrinkers defeated The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

(11-21-93)

—Marc Breault

### FLORIDA

WEST PALM BEACH—Atlantic Wrestling Council TV taping at the Sports & Recreation Facility: Soul Man Alex G. defeated Blare Rogers by disqualification ... Haystacks Calhoun Jr. beat J.R. James ... Death Row 3260 defeated The Vagrant ... Ebony Assassin beat El Toro ... Lightweight champion Bobby Rogers defeated Tyree Pride ... Cousin Junior beat Mr. Loverman ... Super Ref defeated The Vagrant ... Mannibal Cannibal beat El Toro ... Bobby & Blare Rogers defeated Soul Man Alex G. & Bobby Wales.

(12-05-93)

—Bill Brown

HOLLYWOOD—Atlantic Wrestling Council benefit card for "Here's Help" drug rehabilitation clinic, at

Young's Circle Park (matinee session): Death Row 3260 and Mannibal Cannibal battled to a double-disqualification ... In a New Jersey street fight, Bobby Rogers pinned lightweight champion Blare Rogers to win the title ... Rusty Brooks defeated Pat Mulkey ... In an eight-man tag match, former Miami Dolphins Kim Bokamper, Jim Jensen, Joe Rose, & Jim Kiick (managed by current Dolphin Dan Marino) beat Bobby Rogers, Mr. New York, J.R. James, & Blare Bigelow (managed by Mean Mike).

(12-04-93)

—Bill Brown

ORLANDO—WCW at the University of Central Florida Arena: Frankie Lancaster beat Mark Starr ... 2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell defeated Tex Slazenger & Shanghai Pierce ... TV champion Lord Steven Regal beat Paul Roma ... Brian Pillman defeated Steve Austin by disqualification ... U.S. champion Dustin Rhodes beat Paul Orndorff ... Sting & Davey Boy Smith defeated Lord Steven Regal & Dick Slater ... Ric Flair beat Harley Race ... Rick Rude defeated Rick Steamboat.

(11-27-93)

—Matt Anthony

TAMPA—Tri-Star Wrestling at McDill Air Force Base: Muhammad Stud beat Metal Maniac ... Molly McShane defeated Malia Hosaka ... Pat Powers beat Cuban Assassin ... Lanny Poffo defeated Zebra Kid ... Dancing Wolf beat Johnny West ... The Evil Clown defeated Lou Perez.

(11-27-93)

—Shannon Rose

DAVIE—WCW at the Rodeo Arena: Frankie Lancaster defeated Mark Starr ... 2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell beat Tex Slazenger & Shanghai Pierce ... TV champion Lord Steven Regal defeated Paul Roma ... Steve Austin and Brian Pillman battled to a double-countout ... U.S. champion Dustin Rhodes beat Paul Orndorff ... Sting & Brian Pillman defeated Lord Steven Regal & Steve Austin ... Ric Flair beat Harley Race ... Rick Rude defeated Rick Steamboat.

(11-26-93)

—Duane Long

PENSACOLA—WCW Battlebowl at the Civic Center: In opening-round tag team matches, with pairings determined by the "Lethal Lottery": Cactus Jack & Big Van Vader defeated Charlie Norris & Kane when Vader pinned Norris ... Johnny B. Badd & Brian Knobs beat Paul Roma & Erik Watts when Knobs pinned Watts ... Shockmaster & Paul Orndorff defeated Rick Steamboat & Lord

Steven Regal when Shockmaster pinned Regal ... King Kong & Dustin Rhodes beat Awesome Kong & Equalizer when Rhodes pinned Awesome Kong ... Sting & Jerry Sags defeated Ron Simmons & Keith Cole when Sags pinned Cole ... Ric Flair & Steve Austin beat 2 Cold Scorpio & Maxx Payne when Flair forced Payne to submit ... Rick Rude & Shanghai Pierce defeated Tex Slazenger & Marcus Alexander Bagwell when Rude pinned Slazenger ... Hawk & Rip Rogers beat Davey Boy Smith & Kole when Rogers pinned Kole ... In the 16-man over-the-top battle royal involving the winners of the tag team matches, Big Van Vader won, last eliminating Sting when Vader escaped a "Stinger splash."

(11-20-93)

—Paul L. Davids

### GEORGIA

FORT OGLETHORPE—Tri-Star Wrestling at the Battlefield Flea Mall: Outlaw II pinned Woody Woodchuck ... Rawhead Rex beat Danny Marlow ... Cowboy Randy Steel pinned Gene Surlock ... Johnny Blaze pinned Outlaw I ... Sam Colt & Chuck Justice defeated Woody Woodchuck & Scott James ... Tag team champions Billy Montana & Kenny Arden beat The Nasty Critters.

(12-03-93)

—Bill Needham

### ILLINOIS

GREENVILLE—Windy City Wrestling at the High School: Lightweight champion Christopher Daniels pinned Danny Dominion ... Kevin Quinn pinned Ken Erikson ... Middleweight champion R. Valentino pinned Ronnie Vegas ... The Smith Brothers beat tag team champions The Twin Turbos to win the belts ... Haystacks Ross defeated Nailz by disqualification ... Heavyweight champion K.C. Knight pinned Iron Mike Samson.

(11-13-93)

—Steve Cain

KANKAKEE—WWF: Men on a Mission beat Barry Horowitz & Tom Stone ... Tiger Jackson defeated Little Louie ... The Headshrinkers beat The Smokin' Gunns ... Doink the Clown defeated Steve Lombardi ... Crush beat Marty Jannetty ... Bret Hart defeated Adam Bomb.

(11-11-93)

—Charles Dillon

### INDIANA

INDIANAPOLIS—Championship Wrestling from Indiana at Tyndall Armory: Chris Michaels & Todd Morton beat Johnny Walker & Buddy Garvin ... Ali Ben Khan defeated Donnie Anderson ... Flash Flanagan beat P.C. Austin by disqualification ...

Mike Samples defeated Sean Casey ... Eric Fontaine beat T.J. Powers ... Donnie Anderson defeated The Lumberjack ... Eric Fontaine won a blindfold battle royal.  
(11-25-93)

—Larry Butler

## KENTUCKY

BARBOURVILLE—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at Knox Central High School: In a loser-gets-tarred-and-feathered match, Bobby Blaze beat Chris Candido ... Prince Kharis defeated Tim Horner ... In a falls-count-anywhere match, The Bullet beat Kevin Sullivan ... The Moondogs and The Rock 'n' Roll Express battled to a no-contest ... Heavyweight champion Brian Lee defeated Tony Anthony by disqualification ... In a gang fight, The Bruise Brothers beat The Heavenly Bodies.  
(11-27-93)

—Millicent Gillingham

## MARYLAND

ESSEX—ASWA/MEWF at Kenwood High School: In a Survivor Series-style strap match, Watsumi the Rising Sun, Chad Austin, & Joe College defeated American Ninja, Shane Shamrock, Johnny Paradise, & The Comet. Austin pinned College to become the sole survivor ... Pat Patterson Jr. beat Colossal Kong by reverse decision ... ECW heavyweight champion Sabu (managed by Paul E. Dangerously) pinned Tasmaniac ... ASWA heavyweight champion Hack Myers pinned Trent Young ... In a Survivor Series-style strap match, Mike Khoury, Joe Thunder, Tommy Dreamer, & Max Moon beat Duane Gill, Max Thrasher, Tommy Lee Manson, & Bob Starr. Khoury defeated Starr to become the sole survivor, and also won Starr's Mid-Atlantic heavyweight title ... Junkyard Dog (managed by Sherri Martel) pinned Kevin Sullivan (managed by Woman) ... In a four-team Texas death match, Ian & Axl Rotten beat Tony Stetson & Johnny Hot Body, Southern Destruction, and Rich Myers & Jimmy Jannetty. As a result, the Rottens won the ASWA/MEWF tag team title ... Johnny Gunn pinned Greg Valentine (managed by Madusa Miceli) ... In a no-disqualification match, Lucifer the Knight of the Road pinned Morgus the Maniac to reclaim the MEWF heavyweight title ... Public Enemy defeated Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond ... Jake Roberts pinned Mr. Hughes (substituting for Road Warrior Hawk).  
(11-14-93)

—Timothy A. Walker

HAMPSTEAD—Mid-Eastern Wrestling Alliance at North Carroll High School: Rich Myers pinned Watsumi the Rising Sun to win the light heavyweight title ... Mighty Doom beat Little Hercules ... Mike Sharpe defeated T-Bone Strong ... Ricky Lane & Chad Austin beat Quinn Nash & Mike Khoury ... Morgus the Maniac pinned Lucifer the Knight of the Road to win the heavyweight title ... Madusa Miceli defeated Nasty Angel ... Junkyard Dog beat Russian Assassin ... Jake Roberts defeated Greg Valentine by disqualification.  
(11-13-93)

—Timothy A. Walker

## MASSACHUSETTS

TEWKSBURY—Century Wrestling Alliance at the High School: In a women's/midget mixed tag match, Little Louie & Misty Blue Simmes defeated Little Nasty & Nasty Girl Sherry ... Ray Odyssey pinned light heavyweight champion El Mascarado to win the title ... "Boston Bad Boy" Tony Rumble pinned New England heavyweight champion "Hollywood Kid" Randy Starr to win the title ... In

a Mexican mask match, The Flame beat The Intern ... Tony Atlas pinned heavyweight champion Vic Steamboat to win the title ... The Bushwhackers defeated tag team champions The Troublemakers by disqualification.  
(12-04-93)

—Ted Orr

BOSTON—WWF Survivor Series at Boston Garden: The Kid, Marty Jannetty, Razor Ramon, & Randy Savage (replacing Curt Hennig) defeated Irwin R. Schyster, Diesel, Rick Martel, & Adam Bomb ... Bret, Owen, Keith, & Bruce Hart beat Shawn Michaels, The Black Knight, The Red Knight, & The Blue Knight ... The Heavenly Bodies beat The Rock 'n' Roll Express to win the Smoky Mountain tag team belts ... The Doinks (Bushwhacker Luke, Bushwhacker Butch, & Men on a Mission) defeated Bam Bam Bigelow, Bastion Booger, & The Headshrinkers ... Lex Luger, Rick & Scott Steiner, & The Undertaker beat Quebecer Jacques, Yokozuna, Ludvig Borga, & Crush.  
(11-24-93)

—Brandon Apter

## MICHIGAN

FLINT—WWF at IMA Sports Arena: Steve Lombardi defeated Brian Costello ... Diesel beat Bob Backlund ... In a non-title coffin match, The Undertaker defeated World champion Yokozuna ... Men on a Mission beat Barry Horowitz & Tom Stone ... Bastion Booger defeated Virgil ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon beat Irwin R. Schyster.  
(11-18-93)

—Michael Rogers

## MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS—NWA/Pro Wrestling America at the Northeast Armory: Derek Dukes defeated Billy Blaze ... The Storm Troopers beat Johnny Love & Dan Jesmer ... The Chosen One defeated John Scarlett ... The Hater beat T-Rex ... Louie Spicoli defeated Jerry Lynn ... Road Warrior Hawk beat Doink the Clown.  
(11-27-93)

—George Harmon

## NEW JERSEY

LAKE HIAWATHA—East Coast Pro Wrestling: Jason Wright beat Bill Cobbs ... Devon Storm defeated Inferno Kid ... Kodiak Bear beat Gino Caruso ... The Annihilators defeated Dennis Knight & Black Champion ... Vinnie Powers battled The Italian Stallion (not the PWF wrestler) to a double-countout ... Rocky Jones beat Metal Head.  
(11-18-93)

—Dave O'Connor

## NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWF at Madison Square Garden: The Headshrinkers beat The Smokin' Gunns ... Tiger Jackson defeated Little Louie ... Shawn Michaels beat Doink the Clown ... Rick & Scott Steiner defeated World tag team champions The Quebecers by disqualification ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon beat Diesel ... Owen Hart defeated Marty Jannetty ... In a non-title coffin match, The Undertaker beat World champion Yokozuna.  
(11-27-93)

—Blaine Pomeroy

SYRACUSE—WWF at the Onondaga County War Memorial: The Kid defeated Johnny Polo ... Doink the Clown beat Mike Sharpe ... Rick Steiner defeated Quebecer Jacques ... Lex Luger beat

Ludvig Borga ... Owen Hart defeated Adam Bomb by disqualification ... The Headshrinkers beat The Rock 'n' Roll Express ... In a cage match, Bret Hart defeated Shawn Michaels.  
(11-19-93)

—Ray Brubaker

## NORTH CAROLINA

MORGANTON—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Flea Market: Randy Sledge beat Terry "Too Hot" Thomas ... Texas Outlaw defeated Super Ninja I ... American G.I. beat Jeff Victory ... In a six-man tag team match, Scott Powers, Star Ryder, & Italian Stallion defeated Terry Austin, Austin Steele, & George South ... Hillbilly beat Chris Hamrick by disqualification ... Emilio Ulacia won a 13-man battle royal.  
(12-04-93)

—Dan Parris

SMITHFIELD—Carolina Championship Wrestling Alliance at the Middle School: In a Russian chain match, heavyweight champion Kahn the Warlord defeated Ivan Koloff by disqualification when Pat Anderson interfered ... Jimmy Valiant beat The Intruder ... The Country Club defeated tag team champions East-West Connection to win the belts ... The Golden Bear pinned Mitch Ryder ... The Iron Chief pinned Dan "Jack of Hearts" Cooley ... Bam Bam Stevenson beat Pat Anderson ... Jimmy Valentine pinned Al Chico ... The Iron Chief won a 20-man battle royal.  
(12-04-93)

—Sidney Johnson

LINCOLNTON—Pro Wrestling Federation at the National Guard Armory: Scott Powers beat The Carolina Heartbreaker in 13:07 ... Chris Hamrick defeated Tommy Welker at the 8:00 mark ... Tyrone Knox beat Jeff Victory by disqualification in 6:54 ... Randy Sledge, Star Ryder, & The Unknown (later revealed to be Italian Stallion) defeated Terry Austin, George South, & Russian Assassin II in 27:59 ... Heavyweight champion Killdozer beat Austin Steele in 9:00 ... Emilio Ulacia won a 13-man bungalow stampede in 9:43.  
(11-27-93)

—Dan Parris

KINGS MOUNTAIN—Pro Wrestling Federation at the National Guard Armory: Benji Beacham defeated The Super Ninja in 5:21 ... Scott Powers beat Too Hot Holland by disqualification at the 10:59 mark ... Randy Sledge & Star Ryder defeated Terry Austin & Chris Hamrick in 19:51 ... Italian Stallion beat George South by disqualification in 13:19 when Wild Samoan Tai attacked Stallion ... Killdozer pinned heavyweight champion Austin Steele at the 11:28 mark to win the title ... Killdozer won an 11-man battle royal in 9:01.  
(11-26-93)

—Dan Parris

LENOIR—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the Mulberry Recreation Center: Tim Horner beat Killer Kyle ... U.S. junior heavyweight champion Chris Candido defeated Bobby Blaze ... The Bruise Brothers beat The Heavenly Bodies ... Tony Anthony defeated heavyweight champion Brian Lee by disqualification ... Tony Anthony won a battle royal.  
(11-19-93)

—Les Baisey

BELMONT—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Armory: Star Ryder won an eight-man battle royal, eliminating Terry Austin ... Heavyweight champion Austin Steele fought Italian Stallion to a 30-minute

draw ... Junior heavyweight champion Star Ryder defeated Russian Assassin II ... Tag team champions Terry Austin & George South beat Flaming Youth & Jeff Victory.  
(11-13-93)

—Brock Chandler

## OHIO

PLYMOUTH—American States Wrestling Alliance at the High School: Max Profit pinned Jim Titan ... J.T. Lightning & Ryan Scott beat Frank Stiletto & Ken Hendricks ... Jimmy Lee pinned Thunder Morgan ... Rod Kopina beat "Beef Stew" Lou Marconi ... Junior heavyweight champion Kid Collins pinned Ishadekimasu after a power bomb ... Heavyweight champion Scott Somers beat Derrek Stone by disqualification when "Beef Stew" Lou Marconi interfered ... Rod Kopina won a blindfold battle royal by pinning Max Profit.  
(11-20-93)

—Jeff Gorman

MANSFIELD—American States Wrestling Alliance at the East Side Recreation Center: Jimmie Lee battled to a double-countout with Thunder Morgan ... Johnny Paradise pinned The Spoiler ... Rod Kopina & Kenny Hendricks beat Derrek Stone & "Beef Stew" Lou Marconi when Hendricks pinned Marconi ... Junior heavyweight champion Kid Collins pinned Max Profit after slamming manager Ed Dudley on top of Profit and pinning them both ... Scott Somers pinned heavyweight champion Bo Dacious to win the title ... Derrek Stone won a 12-man battle royal.  
(11-19-93)

—Jeff Gorman

## OREGON

PORTRLAND—Championship Wrestling USA at the Interstate Pavilion: In a six-man tag team match, C.W. Bergstrom, Brian Cox, & Larry Oliver defeated Jesse Barr, Dane Rush, & Lou Andrews by disqualification ... Buddy Wayne beat Col. DeBeers by disqualification ... Love Machine pinned Jon Rambo ... Karl Pope and Nick Danger battled to a time-limit draw ... Jim Pope and The Silver Shadow battled to a time-limit draw.  
(12-04-93)

—Kenn Jones

## PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA—WWF at the Spectrum: Bret Hart beat Shawn Michaels in a cage match ... Owen Hart beat Duane Gill ... Doink the Clown pinned Mike Sharpe ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat Johnny Polo & Quebecer Jacques when Rick pinned Polo ... Lex Luger defeated Ludvig Borga ... Adam Bomb beat The Kid ... The Headshrinkers beat The Rock 'n' Roll Express.  
(11-20-93)

—Evan Baum

PHILADELPHIA—Eastern Championship Wrestling "November To Remember" at the ECW Arena: Mr. Hughes pinned Johnny Gunn at 9:40 ... The Tasmaniac pinned Tommy Dreamer at 7:00 after Boston Bad Boy hit Dreamer with a helmet ... Tag team champions Tony Stetson & Johnny Hot Body defeated Ian & Axl Rotten at 6:11. After the match, Stetson & Hot Body were challenged by Johnny Gunn & Tommy Dreamer, who scored a double pin at the nine-second mark to win the title ... Kevin Sullivan (managed by Woman) beat Tommy Cairo in 2:15 ... Malia Hosaka (substituting for no-show Madusa Miceli) and Sherri Martel fought to a no-contest ... The Sandman and Jim Neidhart battled to a double-disqualification in 6:07 ... In a

"South Philly hood match," Public Enemy defeated Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond at 16:40 ... In a chair match, Sal Bellomo beat The Rockin' Rebel by forfeit due to Rebel's injury ... Road Warrior Hawk & Sabu defeated Terry Funk & King Kong Bundy. ECW champion Sabu pinned Funk to win his TV title.  
(11-13-93)

—Bart Orkline

## TENNESSEE

LENOIR CITY—Southern Wrestling Association at the Memorial Building: Lynn Montana defeated Storm Shadow by submission ... "Jumping" Jeff Gann beat Don Justice by disqualification due to outside interference ... Dennis "The Tank" Coates pinned Storm Trooper ... Bam Bam Christian & Bobby B defeated Eddie Golden & Chris Steelheart when Christian pinned Steelheart ... Tag team champions Steve Idol & Danny Christian battled Rick Connors & Mike Powers to a double-countout ... In a steel cage match, heavyweight champion Deke Rivers defeated Tim Reed.  
(12-04-93)

—Bill Needham



MEMPHIS—USWA at Mid-South Coliseum: Del Rios beat The Wolfman ... King Kobra defeated Warlock by disqualification ... In a loser-eats-dog-food midget match, Little Eagle beat Midget D ... The American Eagles defeated Phi Delta Slam, forcing the losers to leave the USWA; the Eagles would have been unmasked had they lost ... Jeff Gaylord & Mike Anthony beat tag team champs PG-13 to win the title, as Anthony pinned Wolfie D ... Southern champion Buddy Landell battled Dutch Mantel to a double-countout ... In a WWF women's elimination tournament match, Madusa Miceli defeated Allison Royal ... In a Smoky Mountain Wrestling title match, Jerry Lawler beat SMW champion Brian Lee by disqualification when Rex Hargrove and Reggie B. Fine interfered ... In a loser-gets-10-lashes match, Rex Hargrove defeated Brian Christopher by disqualification. Toni Adams handed a chain to Hargrove, who planned to hit Christopher with it. Instead, he hit referee T.D. Steele. Christopher got the chain, put it in his tights, and was pointed out by Adams ... In a leather strap match, with five fans holding straps on each side of the ring, Jerry Lawler & Brian Christopher beat Reggie B. Fine & Rex Hargrove.  
(11-29-93)

—Mark Mitchell

JOHNSON CITY—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at Freedom Hall: In a loser-gets-tarred-and-feathered match, Bobby Blaze beat Chris Candido by disqualification ... Prince Kharis defeated Tim Horner ... In a Singapore spike match, The Bullet beat Kevin Sullivan ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express and The Moondogs battled to a no-contest ... Heavyweight champion Brian Lee defeated Tony

Anthony by disqualification ... In a gang fight, The Bruise Brothers beat The Heavenly Bodies.  
(11-28-93)

—Ron Donnelly

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: King Kobra beat The Wolfman ... In a four-team tournament to determine the top contender for the USWA tag team belts, PG-13 beat The American Eagles; Jeff Gaylord & Mike Anthony beat Phi Delta Slam; and PG-13 beat Gaylord & Anthony ... Dutch Mantel beat Reggie B. Fine ... In a back-alley street fight, "Dirty White Girl" Kimberly beat Toni Adams ... "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony defeated Don Bass ... Buddy Landell beat Jeff Jarrett to capture the USWA Southern belt ... Jerry Lawler & Brian Christopher beat Rex Hargrove & Koko B. Ware ... Jeff Jarrett won a 20-man battle royal to win the vacant USWA title, previously held by Randy Savage. Jarrett pinned Jerry Lawler to win. Jarrett's feet were on the ropes during the pin.  
(11-22-93)

—Mark Mitchell

MARYVILLE—All-State Wrestling at the Junction: Darrell Monroe defeated "Jumping" Jeff Gann ... Rick Connors pinned Charlie Long ... Keith & Greg Hart defeated The Storm Trooper & Los Lobos as Keith pinned Lobos ... Chic White beat Lynn Montana.  
(11-18-93)

—Bill Needham

KNOXVILLE—Tennessee All-Star Wrestling at the Eastside YMCA: James Blevins pinned The Butcher ... Rick Cannon defeated Spoiler II ... Mike Powers beat Rick Connors ... Spoilers I & II defeated Deke Rivers & Johnny Raynor ... Tommy Rich pinned heavyweight champion Buddy Landel to win the title.  
(11-13-93)

—Bill Needham

## TEXAS

DALLAS—Global Wrestling Federation at the Sportatorium: John Hawk pinned Corporal John Armstrong with a suplex ... Heavyweight champion Iceman Parsons pinned Raving Robert ... Chris Adams pinned Alex Porteau following a superkick ... In a Polish street fight, Scott Putski used a chain to pin Rod Price ... Vito Mussolini & Guido Falcone defeated Chaz Taylor & Steven Dane ... In a bullrope match, "Maniac" Mike Davis beat Black Bart by touching all four ringposts.  
(11-19-93)

—Ron Yarborough

## WEST VIRGINIA

BETHANY—Appalachian Championship Wrestling at the Middle School: Jumbo Kwan defeated James Gibson ... Otto Von Hamburg beat Billy Ray Rhodes ... The Juicer battled Moose to a double-disqualification ... In a handicap match, Super Mario defeated Flaming Youth & Cruel Connection II ... Jimmy Valiant beat Spoiler ... Coco Puffs won an eight-man battle royal.  
(11-26-93)

—Patrick Peiser

## INTERNATIONAL

### CANADA

JOLIETTE, QUEBEC—Wide Wrestling Challenge at Joliette College: Syl Dancer beat Crazy Eddie ... Lucifer defeated Phil Belanger ... Damian battled Jack the Lumberjack to a double-countout ... Black Bear & Boris Khrushchev beat Warlock &

El Diablo ... In a best-of-three falls match, Dream Killer defeated Quebec champion Frank Blues in three falls to win the title ... Power & Speed beat The Sweet Boys in a match to determine the number-one tag team contenders.

(12-04-93)

—Bertrand Hebert

**CLOVERDALE, BRITISH COLUMBIA**—West Coast Championship Wrestling at the Fairgrounds: Rocky Della Serra pinned Cheechuck after hitting him with the Quebec provincial flag ... Firefighter Adrian pinned Riptide Rockford ... Johnny Canuck defeated Magnificent Mike Roselli by disqualification ... Diamond Timothy Flowers pinned Bad News Allen to regain valet Wendy ... In a hair vs. hair and loser-leaves-town-for-90-days match, Billy Two Eagles defeated heavyweight champion Gorgeous Michelle Starr when Starr flipped out of the ring between the top and middle ropes and was severely injured. As a result, Eagles was awarded the title.

(11-27-93)

—Stuart Kemp

**MONTREAL, QUEBEC**—WWF at the Forum: Tiger Jackson beat Little Louie ... The Headshrinkers defeated The Smokin' Gunns ... Doink the Clown beat Shawn Michaels after Michaels was distracted by Razor Ramon ... Owen Hart defeated Bastion Booger ... The Undertaker beat World champion Yokozuna by disqualification ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon defeated Diesel ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat World tag team champions The Quebecers by disqualification.

(11-26-93)

—Bertrand Hebert

**OTTAWA, ONTARIO**—WWF at the Civic Centre: Owen Hart defeated Johnny Polo ... Doink the Clown beat Bastion Booger ... Rick & Scott Steiner defeated World tag team champions The Quebecers by disqualification ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon beat Diesel ... The Headshrinkers defeated The Smokin' Gunns ... Tiger Jackson beat Little Louie ... The Undertaker defeated World champion Yokozuna by disqualification.

(11-25-93)

—Alex Silver

**WINNIPEG, MANITOBA**—River City Wrestling: Caveman Broda defeated Crybaby Levinsky by disqualification ... Canadian Ninja beat Pink Panther ... Sgt. Steele defeated Dakota Moondog ... Sluggo Smith & Jason the Terrible beat Bobby V & U.S. Male ... Team Canada won a 12-man elimination match.

(11-11-93)

—Jason Mason

## GREAT BRITAIN

**CARDIFF, WALES**—WWF at the CIA: The Kid beat Rick Martel ... Adam Bomb defeated Virgil ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon beat Irwin R. Schyster ... The Smokin' Gunns defeated The Red Knight & The Black Knight ... Tatanka beat Diesel ... Randy Savage defeated Shawn Michaels ... The Undertaker beat World champion Yokozuna by disqualification.

(12-05-93)

—Tom Edmunds

**TOKYO**—FMW at Korakuen Hall: Masato Tanaka beat Koji Nakagawa ... Battle Ranger defeated Tatsuhiro Kuroda ... Katsuji Ueda beat Masaru Toi ... Ricky Fuji defeated Dark Ranger ... Big Titan beat Hideki Hosaka ... Tsuppari Mack,

Shark Tsuchiya, Crusher Maedomari, & Combat Toyota defeated Nurse Nakamura, Yukie Nabeno, Miwa Sato, & Megumi Kudo ... The Gladiator beat Katsutoshi Niijima ... Dr. Hannibal & Dr. Looser defeated Damian & Sabu ... In a street fight, Atsushi Onita, Tarzan Goto, & Sambo Asako beat Mr. Pogo, Mitsuhiro Matsunaga, & Hisakatsu Oya.

(11-19-93)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

**CHIBA**—All-Japan: Doug Furnas beat Mighty Inoue ... Dan Kroffat defeated Tamon Honda ... The Eagle & The Patriot beat Dory Funk & Yoshinari Ogawa ... Rusher Kimura & Mitsuo Momota defeated Haruka Eigen & Ryuma Izumida ... Jun Akiyama & Satoru Asako beat Masa Fuchi & Takao Omori ... Steve Williams & Big Bubba Rogers defeated Abdullah the Butcher & Giant Kamala II ... Toshiaki Kawada & Akira Tane beat Tracey Smothers & Richard Slinger ... Giant Baba, Mitsuharu Misawa, & Kenta Kobashi defeated Stan Hansen, Dan Spivey, & Johnny Ace.

(11-16-93)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY FEBRUARY

### LOUISIANA

**SHREVEPORT**—At the Municipal Auditorium: Calypso Joe pinned Sonny Rogers ... Ted DiBiase and Jack Curtis battled to a 15-minute draw ... In a no-disqualification match, "Killer" Karl Kox defeated Dick Murdoch with the help of Waldo Von Erich ... U.S. tag team champions Greg Valentine & Gorgeous George Jr. beat The Hollywood Blonds by disqualification ... North American heavyweight champion "Cowboy" Bill Watts defeated Waldo Von Erich by disqualification.

(02-02-76)

—PWI archives

### MICHIGAN

**DETROIT**—At Cobo Hall: Christopher Colt beat Mike Loren ... Lou Klein defeated Hell's Angel ... Lucille Dupree beat Tanya West ... Hans Schmidt defeated Bob Harmon ... Don Kent beat Bob White ... Sweet Daddy Siki defeated Ben Justice ... Haystacks Calhoun beat The Executioner ... Danny Hodge defeated Zebra Kid by disqualification ... Bull Curry beat Chris Tolos ... Tex McKenzie defeated Pampero Firpo by disqualification ... The Stomper beat Al Costello ... The Sheik defeated Tony Marino.

(02-26-72)

—PWI archives

### NEW YORK

**NEW YORK**—WWWF at Madison Square Garden: Virgil the Kentucky Butcher defeated Edouard Carpentier ... Victor Rivera beat Hans Mortier ... Prof. Toru Tanaka battled Dom DeNucci to a draw ... Miguel Perez defeated Gil Gordon ... The Sheik beat Lou Cerdan ... Earl Maynard pinned Luke Graham ... In a midget tag team match, Little Beaver & Little Jackie defeated Sky Low Low & Little Brutus ... Bruno Sammartino defeated Bull Ramos with a backbreaker at 12:43. Attendance was 12,989 at the first pro wrestling card held in the new Garden.

(02-19-68)

—PWI archives

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# press conference

(Continued from page 23)



Kevin Von Erich says his father Fritz was not an abusive parent, nor did he push his sons into becoming professional wrestlers.

I had him talked out of it. Thirty minutes later they found his body. He must have gone right out to do it.

**PWI:** I don't think anyone can imagine how painful that must have been for you.

**VON ERICH:** Any kid reading this article, if you only knew what kind of pain you'd inflict on people who love you and how it stays and stays and never goes away, you'd never do it. You may feel like dying at the moment, but if you knew what kind of pain it would put on people who love you, you'd never do it.

**PWI:** Watching five sons die must have been a terrible burden for your parents.

**VON ERICH:** My parents had been married for 43 years when Chris blew his brains out. Three months later they divorced. I don't know if one blames the other. I don't think it was either one's fault at all. I saw my dad the other day and my mother's in Dallas. My parents got together after Kerry died because they needed each other. They didn't want to start any more of the gossip rags. But my parents never got back together. Maybe they will get together one day. That's my

dream. They need each other.

**PWI:** I know you have a wife and children, but do you ever feel lonely without your brothers?

**VON ERICH:** It is pretty lonely, but what are you going to do? Life goes on. I have my kids and I put all my love into them. You'll never know how close my brothers were to me. It is very lonely. I'm the only one alive, and some people are taking bets on me. But there's no way that's going to happen to me because I have a reason to live and a good one. I'm happy with my life.

**PWI:** You sound unusually optimistic for someone who has been through such hard times.

**VON ERICH:** You just have to be tough, just like in wrestling. It's not always easy, but the rewards are there. Just like in life. I think things are going to have a happy ending. I have two sons coming up and we just

might see them become the masters of the iron claw (laughs).

**PWI:** Do you blame your brothers' deaths on wrestling?

**VON ERICH:** Not at all. If anything's to blame, it's our recklessness. Me and my brothers.

**PWI:** And you're through with wrestling?

**VON ERICH:** I've really had enough.

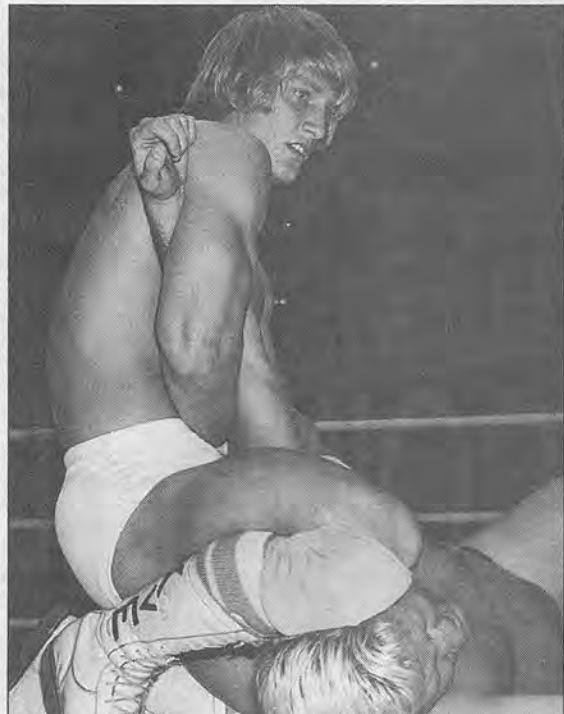
**PWI:** Is there anything you'd like to say to the readers?

**VON ERICH:** I'd like to say to everybody that we love you all and this is the truth. This is the way it went. My father was not a real brutal guy like they try to play him out to be in some of these gossip magazines. We were just a lot of fun-loving little boys.

**PWI:** You mentioned your father in a defensive way. I'm sure you've heard most of the rumors concerning your family.

**VON ERICH:** Sure, I've heard a lot of them.

(Continued on page 50)



Kevin had a solid career, but has no plans to compete again. He is writing a screenplay about the real story of his ill-fated brothers.

**60 WEAR-DOWN HOLDS**

1. AIRPLANE SPIN
2. ARMBAR
3. ARMDRAG
4. ARMLOCK
5. ARM STRETCH
6. ARM WHIP
7. ASIAN SPIKE
8. BEAR HUG
9. BITING
10. BODY SLAM
11. BODY TACKLE
12. CHICKEN WING
13. CHOKE
14. CLAW
15. CLOTHESLINE
16. CROSS BODY BLOCK
17. DOUBLE-AXE HANDLE
18. DROP KICK
19. EAGLE SPLIT
20. ELBOW SMASH
21. EYE GOUGE
22. FACE RAKE
23. FIREMAN'S CARRY RAM
24. FLYING BODY PRESS
25. FLYING CLOTHESLINE
26. FLYING DROP KICK
27. FLYING ELBOW DROP
28. FLYING HEAD BUTT
29. FLYING MARE
30. FOREARM SMASH
31. FOREIGN OBJECT
32. FULL NELSON
33. GIANT SWING
34. GRAPEVINE
35. HAIR PULLING
36. HAMMERLOCK
37. HEAD LOCK
38. HEAD STOMP
39. HEART PUNCH
40. HIP ROLL
41. IRISH WHIP
42. KNEE DROP
43. LEGLOCK
44. MANAGER INTERFERENCE
45. MONKEY FLIP
46. OVERHEAD TOSS
47. POLE RAM
48. REVERSE CHINLOCK
49. ROLLING SCISSORS
50. ROPE BURN
51. SAVATTE KICK
52. SCISSORS GRIP
53. SHOULDER BREAKER
54. SLINGSHOT
55. SNAP MARE
56. STEP-OVER TOE HOLD
57. SUPLEX
58. SURFBOARD
59. TURNBUCKLE SMASH
60. WRISTLOCK

**30 SET-UP HOLDS**

61. ABDOMINAL STRETCH
62. ATOMIC DROP
63. AVALANCHE
64. BACKBREAKER
65. BACKROLL PRESS
66. BELLY TO BELLY
67. BIG SPLASH
68. BOSTON CRAB
69. BRAIN BUSTER
70. BULLDOG
71. CAMEL CLUTCH
72. COBRA CLUTCH
73. CRADLE
74. CRUCIFIX
75. D.D.T.
76. FIGURE FOUR
77. FLYING LEG DROP
78. GOURD BUSTER
79. INDIAN DEATH LOCK
80. NECKBREAKER
81. PILEDRIVER
82. POWER BOMB
83. POWER SLAM
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86. SLINGSHOT SUPLEX
87. SMALL PACKAGE
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90. SUPERPLEX

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1  2  3  4  5

6  7  8  9  10

Set-Up Holds: choose 5 from the list of 30 shown at left. List them in order. Use each only once.

1  2  3  4  5

Finishing Hold: create "custom" final maneuver or choose a hold from either list shown at left. Limit the length to 20 letters and spaces:

**FINISHING HOLD**

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

WRESTLER'S NAME (NO ACTUAL PRO WRESTLER NAMES, PLEASE)

WRESTLER'S HEIGHT

WRESTLER'S WEIGHT

MANAGER'S NAME (IF NOT YOU)

WRESTLER'S SPECIAL GIMMICK

# press conference

(Continued from page 48)



The popularity of Texas wrestling, and the Von Erichs in particular, diminished through the '80s as the "First Family Of Wrestling" was stricken with tragedy after tragedy.

**PWI:** Well, how about commenting on a few of them?

**VON ERICH:** Go ahead. That's what I'm here for.

**PWI:** It has been suggested that drug use was prevalent in your family and your parents didn't discourage it. In fact, some people say your mother encouraged it.

**VON ERICH:** I'll say this, as far as illegal drugs, that's not true. I'm talking about drugs prescribed by doctors. Painkillers. Dave and Mike had surgeries. All the brothers had painkillers prescribed by doctors. Kerry was the only one who ever got into illegal drugs, not prescribed by doctors. The best way to handle pain is to grit your teeth and put ice on it. If you take a pain pill, the next time it will take two of them and the next time it's going to be three. It's just a crack in the door which gets wider and wider. In a way, drugs had a lot to do with the deaths of quite a few of my brothers. Mike was into painkillers. It's nasty to talk about. I know kids are reading these articles. I don't want to get into it too much, but drugs are deadly. I can tell you from experience, some of my brothers died from legal drugs.

**PWI:** Many people accuse your parents, especially your father, of being abusive.

**VON ERICH:** I was there. I remember back when my dad was a bad guy in wrestling. My brothers and I would go to school and the bigger kids would watch wrestling on Saturday night and get even on Monday. We fought together and the family who fights together not only gets good at fighting, it gets real close. I don't remember my parents being really super strict or abusive in any way at all. I remember a real happy childhood full of running in the Texas sun, just us and nature. We didn't even wear clothes until we went to school. We were so far out in the country. We didn't even have any school chums. (Pauses) I do feel lonely.

**PWI:** Some people say you and your brothers were pushed into wrestling.

**VON ERICH:** I've heard

that rumor a million times. People love to talk about that one. My dad did not push my brothers into wrestling.

**PWI:** Do your parents blame themselves for what happened?

**VON ERICH:** My mother says she doesn't blame my dad, but I don't know. She doesn't blame herself. My father doesn't blame my mother and he doesn't blame himself. They know how wild we were.

**PWI:** But you're pretty convinced you're going to make it, aren't you?

**VON ERICH:** I have beautiful children and a beautiful wife. A nice home. I don't live in opulent luxurious surroundings, but I have everything I want. I live in the country, I have room to move around, shoot my guns, and be by myself. I have all I need. My little brother [Kerry] figured he didn't have anything. He was rootless. He had no home. Seeing me with my family made his pain greater. It reminded him of what he was missing. It was such a sad, tragic thing. □



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# this month in ...

## INSIDE *Wrestling*



**JERRY SAGS**  
and **BRIAN**  
**KNOBS** reveal:  
"MISSY HYATT'S  
as nasty as we  
are!"

It's time  
**DIESEL** and  
**SHAWN**  
**MICHAELS**  
admit they  
loathe each  
other!



### PLUS ...

INSIDE WRESTLING predicts what's in store for '94 ... What you weren't told about Survivor Series will shock you! ... **COL. ROBERT PARKER** tells all in "Hotseat" ... Why does **LUDVIG BORGA** hate America? ... Wrestling can't take the use of chairs as weapons sitting down!

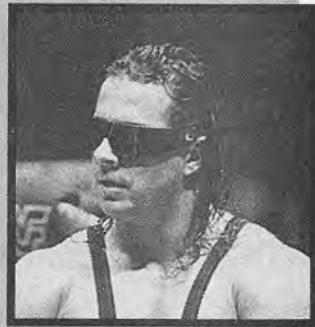
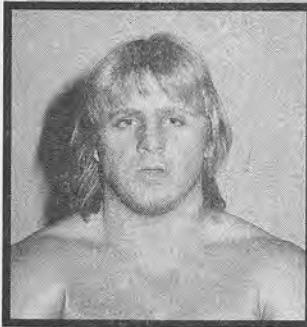
All this—and much more!—in the March 1994 issue of *Inside Wrestling*



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**OWEN & BRET HART:** Will hatred for each other or love for their parents win out?

### PLUS ...

"He attacked me in the locker room!" **RANDY SAVAGE**—out of control! ... How Battlebowl could shake up the WCW tag team scene *permanently* ... **KING KONG BUNDY** is back and ready to rampage! ... Our message to **RON SIMMONS**: There are no shortcuts back to the top ...

All this—and much more!—in the March 1994 issue of *The Wrestler*



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## between falls

*(Continued from page 5)*

Jerry Sags and Brian Knobs, if not more so. And I must take issue with what Knobs said about wanting to be called "Beauty And The Beasts." That title, whether people agree with me or not, is reserved for Sunshine with any combination of wrestlers.

I simply cannot fathom the idea of Missy as a manager. She is just a no-talent bimbo who is involved in wrestling only for monetary reasons. And by the way, Missy, who says you have any brains or beauty?

VINCENT CAMARILLO JR.

Mercedes, TX

### DOWN ON THE OFFICIATING

Never have I seen poorer officiating than in Big Van Vader's title match against Ric Flair at Clash of the Champions XXV. Referee Randy Anderson should have had the intelligence not to count a pinfall at all if he was planning to disqualify the man being pinned. Flair was cheated out of the title. I thought the WWF had poor officiating, but this takes the cake.

Now Vader thinks he is still WCW World champion. Sure, he may hold the title, but we all know the real World champion is the "Nature Boy." An incompetent referee proved that. So, like everyone promises, Ric Flair will have yet another day. Maybe one day Vader will walk that aisle and realize being "the man" and staying "the man" are two different things. I just hope WCW picks a competent referee for the rematch.

JAKE KUHN  
Grayslake, IL

### CHANGEABLE USWA

I've absolutely had it with two of the USWA's so-called top stars, Jeff Jarrett and Brian Christopher. Every time I turn around, it seems like one of them has changed his attitude and style. Christopher used to be one of the whiniest, most despicable men in the USWA; now the fans love him almost as much as Jerry Lawler himself.

And Jarrett was once the clean-cut, gracious Southern gentleman who played by the rules. Now he's turned his back on Christopher and is a spiteful rulebreaker. Worse yet, it seems like Jarrett is now joining with Toni Adams, who was once Christopher's favorite woman. Say what you will about Adams—at least she's a consistent rulebreaker.

TED ARNESS

Lexington, KY □

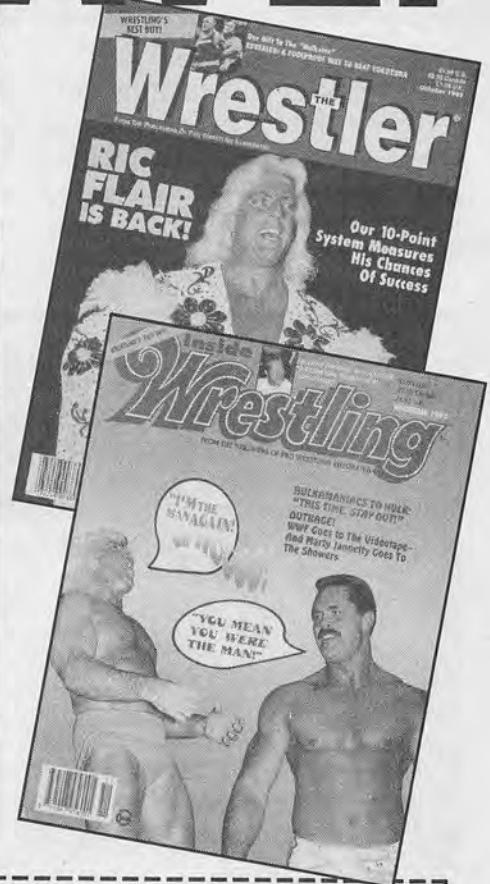


Jeff Jarrett has turned into a rulebreaker, much to the dismay of "Hotline" caller Ted Arness. Ted is equally irritated at Brian Christopher's conversion to fan favorite.

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(Continued from page 7)

both matches, but Race won respect ... and perhaps some tips for Vader on how to take on the "Nature Boy."

"If I'd had more time to prepare, I'm certain I would have won," Race said of his matches. "I think I learned a thing or two to help Vader beat Flair. But what Flair needs to learn

to beat Vader would fill an encyclopedia—and it hasn't been written."

**Tex Slazenger and Shanghai Pierce**, who always put up a strong fight but rarely beat the top tag teams, faced each other recently at Battlebowl in Pensacola, Florida. The "Lethal Lottery" teamed Pierce with

**Rick Rude**, and they defeated Slazenger and **Marcus Alexander Bagwell**. Poor Tex! He can't beat Bagwell as an opponent, and now he couldn't win with him as a teammate.

Slazenger and Pierce even brawled briefly during the Battlebowl match, but made up and pummeled the helpless Bagwell afterward.

Incidentally, Vader ended up winning the Battlebowl battle royal, last eliminating **Sting**.

When **Missy Hyatt** became manager of **The Nasty Boys**, critics called the move all show and said she couldn't contribute anything to them. Whether or not that's the case, let the record show that Hyatt and the Nastys have dominated WCW tag team wrestling for months, save for a 20-day reign by Bagwell and **2 Cold Scorpio**. The lady must be doing something right.

By the time you read this, we'll know whether **Jim Cornette** will have to call me for advice on living boldly, er, baldly. At Smoky Mountain's "Christmas Chaos" in Knoxville, Tennessee, **Dick Murdoch** is coming in to battle **The Bullet**. Cornette initially believed the match would be Bullet's mask (he believes former SMW Commissioner **Bob Armstrong** is under the disguise) against \$5,000. Instead, he was furious to discover his own hair is on the line. Just picture Jimbo as a chrome dome! He might need bandages to cover up the shine.

And he could get those bandages from **Prince Kharis**, a colossal Egyptian mummy managed by **Daryl Van Horne**.



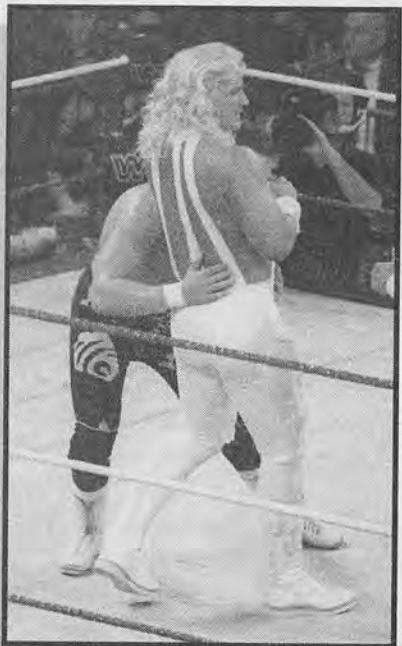
Veteran Dick Murdoch is visiting Smoky Mountain to challenge the mysterious "Bullet." Jim Cornette, who brought him in, could lose his hair if Murdoch loses the match!

Kharis, who recently surprised **Tim Horner** in a series of matches, claims to be 300,000 years old. Compared to him, **Mongolian Stomper** is a pup.

Two significant things are happening in the USWA. First, the long-despised **Brian Christopher** is turning into a fan favorite, so much that he has sacrificed having **Toni Adams** as an ally (and that's some sacrifice!). Adams is now in the

camp of **Rex Hargrove**. Meanwhile, **Jeff Jarrett** is turning rulebreaker and is spending more time in the WWF, ostensibly to help his music career in Nashville. (Memo to Jeff: We also put out a magazine called *CountryBeat*. Next time you perform in one of those clubs at Printers' Alley, let us know. We'll send a photographer.)

That's all for now. See you at ringside! □



Jeff Jarrett has finally debuted in the WWF and is now wrestling as a rulebreaker. He seems to believe he can use the WWF as a steppingstone to a successful country music career.

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## win, lose, or draw

(Continued from page 12)

after Bret. He is widely respected for his technical and aerial abilities. He is a stellar tag team wrestler.

Then what is eating Owen? The rivalry. Bret's been both World and Intercontinental champion. Owen's most prestigious solo belt came in 1993, when he briefly reigned atop the USWA.

"Owen wants desperately to be WWF World champion someday," said one former tag partner. "But right now, all he sees is Bret getting all the opportunities. It's easy to say to Owen, 'Hey, be patient. You'll get your chance,' but he's a very impatient guy. He feels he's been around the WWF long enough, and that now is his time."

Now is the time for Bret, not for Owen. Bret is fully prepared to make a dedicated run at Yokozuna, to whom he lost the title at WrestleMania IX. Bret is finished with "The King" Jerry Lawler; now he wants the kingdom. Owen probably understands that, but he won't accept it.

Many Hart followers say it's possible that Bret and Owen may end up opposing each other in the ring

to, among other things, decide who is more worthy of a World title shot.

"On the face of it, it sounds ridiculous," said one friend. "Everyone knows that Bret is more deserving. But, because of the family

bond, Bret may feel the need to prove that to Owen directly. Whether they do it in front of 100 or 1,000 or 100,000 people won't matter to them. If it has to be settled that way, it will be. Bret wasn't afraid to take on his brother-in-law

"Owen may fly off the handle, but a match with Bret is the last thing he wants," said one wrestler who competed against Owen and Bruce in the Stampede federation. "None of those brothers want to wrestle each other. Even if Bret were World champion, Owen wouldn't take him on. He'd wait till somebody else had the title. They may have their dust-ups now and then, but my hunch is that two Hart brothers wouldn't be so willing to fight."

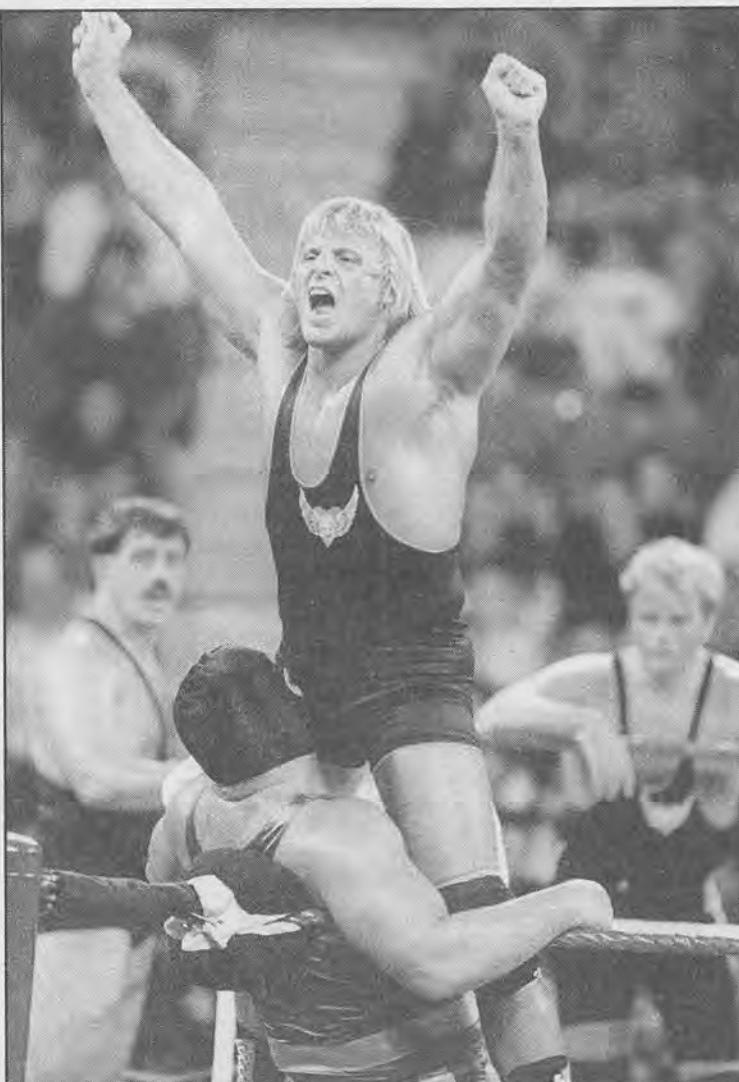
It's hard to believe that last quote. If Bret regains the title, Owen definitely would not pass up a shot at the belt. He's too much of a competitor. He's risked family unity already; he'd gladly do it again.

What happened between Owen and his brothers at Survivor Series may easily happen again. The Harts are the First Family not because they're nice guys, which they are, but because they're winners. They enjoy winning so much they willingly push each other aside in pursuit of their goals.

So the more acclaim they win jointly as a

family, the greater the threat to family unity. And if they are less together as a family, they all suffer.

For Bret, Owen, and the rest of the Harts, it is time to redefine success. □



There's always a natural rivalry among family members, but it needs to be set aside at certain times. Like it or not, this is a lesson Owen Hart must learn or he might risk tearing apart his clan.

Davey Boy Smith, and he won't be afraid to take it one step further."

Others will argue forcefully that, despite any potential problems between them, Bret and Owen would never face off so dramatically.

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Hulk Hogan hails from which California beach community?

- 1) Malibu
- 2) Pacific Heights
- 3) Venice Beach
- 4) Newport Beach

At what University did Ron Simmons play football?

- 1) Notre Dame
- 2) Florida State University
- 3) Michigan State University
- 4) Oglethorpe University

True or False: Giant Gonzales competed in the 1984 Olympics as a member of Argentina's water polo team

- 1) True
- 2) False

The Undertaker was once tag team partners with...

- 1) Lou Albano
- 2) Sergeant Slaughter
- 3) Rick Steiner
- 4) None of the above

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## from the desk of...

(Continued from page 8)



Tatanka sets up Ludvig Borga for a right cross in a thriller. In the heat of the action, the steroid scandal was the farthest thing from people's minds. No one can ever destroy the essential beauty of fierce athletic competition.

Then the matches began and there was Diesel squaring off against Razor Ramon. Diesel's eyes aflame, Razor's taut body a ready coil. I thought of Razor's story and of how far he's come to be where he is—the dedication of a wrestler paying off.

That's not all I saw that night. I watched Ludvig Borga take on Tatanka. And then I had the thrill of seeing two of the best wrestlers alive, Bret Hart and Yokozuna, go head to head. I listened to the grunts and shouts of men fighting

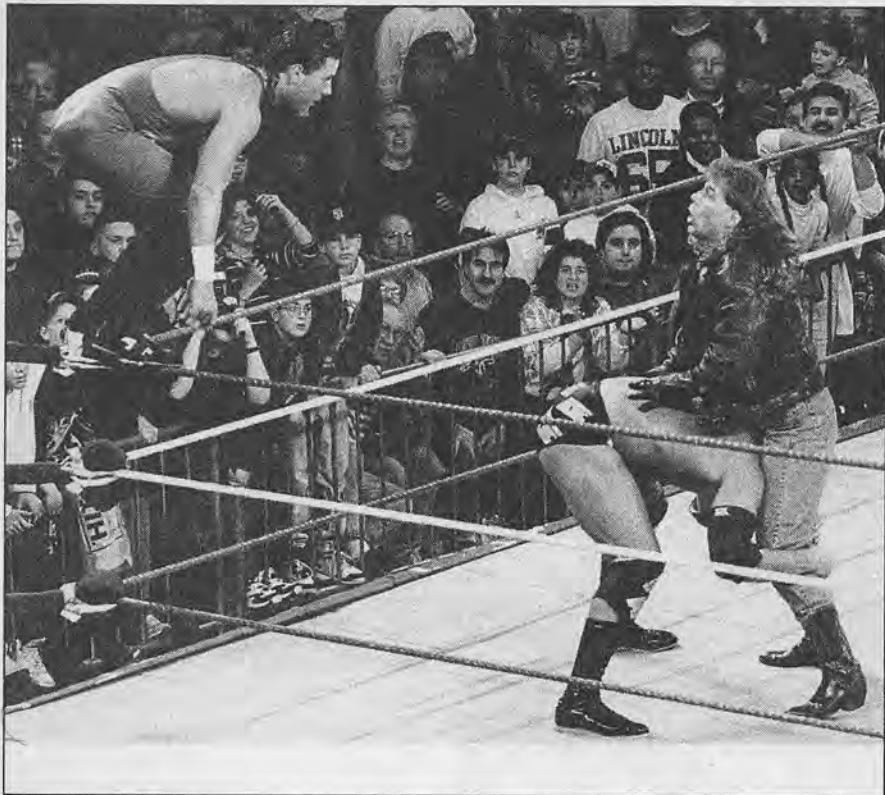
for their honor with all they had.

And all around me, as the great wrestling unfolded, I could feel the spine-tingling roar of the crowd.

For several hours the entire arena got lost in the world of wrestling, absorbed by athletes putting themselves—every ounce of blood, every drop of sweat—on the line.

Those are the athletes who make wrestling the unparalleled sport that it is. They, above all else, are the reasons wrestling will continue to thrive no matter what befalls it.

In editing Chris Bernucca's col-



The crowd at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center in Poughkeepsie is wild with anticipation as The Kid prepares to spring from the ropes at Shawn Michaels, who had run in to interfere in the match between Razor Ramon and Diesel.

umn this issue, a piece where he all but condemns the future of wrestling, I felt a real disturbance welling within me. I just can't subscribe to the things he said.

My answer to you, Chris, as you call out for "drastic change," is to let wrestling be and it will be great. Wrestling in this country is alive and well. I saw it with my own eyes. I heard it with my own ears.

Yes, Vincent McMahon has been a vital figure in the recent history of wrestling—perhaps the most vital figure aside from Hulk Hogan—and if he is found guilty everyone in wrestling will feel residue pain.

But wrestling has been carrying on, thrilling the great people of this country and abroad, for more than a hundred years. Don't expect it to stop now, whatever the verdict on McMahon, whatever the glitches in the game.

Major League Baseball took a beating last spring. Virtually every major medium, from the *New York*

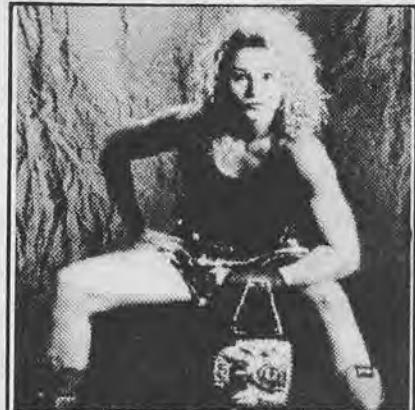
*Times* to *Sports Illustrated*, took the sport to task for its high salaries and alleged decline in quality of play. But when it came to that fabulous weekend in October, the Atlanta Braves and the San Francisco Giants played baseball down to the wire, winning game after game to keep themselves in the race for the National League West title. We saw Barry Bonds and David Justice, and baseball was roaring.

The game kept right on roaring with Lenny Dykstra and the rest of the tobacco-spittin' Phillies taking hold of America. And when Joe Carter's home run capped the Blue Jays' series-winning rally, no one was complaining anymore.

So say what you will about the demise of wrestling. Point to the troubles and issue a victorious "A-ha!" Tell the world things will never be the same.

I, for one, ain't buyin' it. I say wrestling is very much alive.

Just listen to it roar. □



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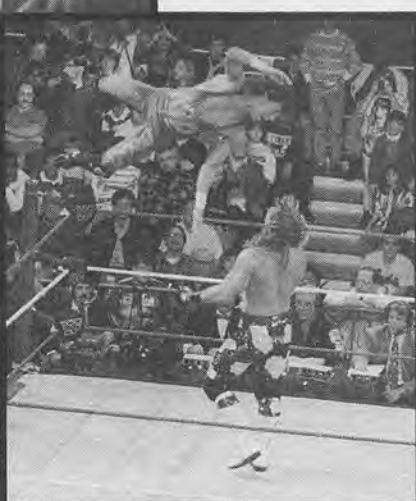
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(Continued from page 21)



Michaels struggled early in his match with Kid. It might have been lingering effects from the Survivor Series several days before, when Michaels pinch-hit for Jerry Lawler and led the Three Knights against the Hart family.



While Kid may be a talented wrestler with amazing aerial skills, Michaels isn't interested in facing him again. He believes he's fully recovered from his layoff, and is ready to retake his belt from Ramon.

Kids, and Harts of the world.

That's not a knock against Bret Hart. No way. Hart, the former World and I-C champion, is more than a match for Michaels. He proved it at the Survivor Series, when Michaels was left alone ignore and hightailed it back to the dressing room. But let's examine Michaels' reasons for running when instincts told him to stay and fight against three Harts.

Michaels was stripped of the I-C title in late September after failing to meet unspecified contractual obligations. The incensed Michaels was beyond angry when WWF President Jack Tunney suspended him indefinitely.

That opened the door for Ramon to become I-C champ.

He and Rick Martel won a battle royal to decide the top two contenders, then won the belt with a victory over "The Model" on September 27 in New Haven, Connecticut.

Although Michaels was out of the picture while Ramon climbed to glory, he quietly seethed on the sidelines. Sources close to Michaels say he immediately blamed Ramon for his misfortune and suspected Ramon of conspiring with Tunney.

The situation is similar to what happened in WCW last year. Rick Rude was stripped of the

U.S. title when a herniated disk prevented him from defending the belt. Instead of taking out his frustration on WCW Vice President of Wrestling Operations Bill Watts—the man who stripped him of the title—Rude channeled his energies in a more productive manner by coming back and challenging new champion Dustin Rhodes.

Like Rude, Michaels knows he gains nothing by bothering with the federation head. Tunney doesn't have the belt; Ramon does. The only way that can change is by him beating Ramon.

If all this seems too obvious, consider how Jim Cornette often worries too much about commissioners (such as former SMW head Bob Armstrong) and Eddie Gilbert caused troubles for both his father, referee Tommy Gilbert, and Watts in the old UWF.

Michaels' path back to Ramon was temporarily detoured when he returned to the ring in mid-November and took Jerry Lawler's place in the Survivor Series. Michaels did it out of duty; he hates the Harts, too. But it was definitely an annoyance. He planned on getting out of the Survivor Series with his body and pride intact. He got one of the two.

Michaels quickly got over that loss and moved on to Kid. All the while, his sights were set on the bigger picture. The big belt. The big man.

A 1994 Feud of the Year candidate is rushing through the developmental stages. This one might still be going on when 1995 arrives. □

# BACK ISSUES OF



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[NOTE: Cover stories noted in **boldface**.]

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**April 1983/CENTERFOLD:** Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

**July 1983/CENTERFOLD:** Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich**, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

**August 1983/CENTERFOLD:** Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

**December 1983/CENTERFOLD:** Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

**January 1984/CENTERFOLD:** Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

**June 1984/CENTERFOLD:** Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase**, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

**July 1984/CENTERFOLD:** Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

**September 1985/CENTERFOLD:** Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

**February 1986/CENTERFOLD:** Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich**, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

**October 1986/CENTERFOLD:** John Studd. **Nikita Koloff**, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Luger, Simpson.

**January 1987/CENTERFOLD:** Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper**, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

**November 1987/CENTERFOLD:** George Steele. **Nikita Koloff**, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

**January 1988/CENTERFOLD:** The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase**, Flair-Garvin, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

**May 1988/CENTERFOLD:** Sting, Andre, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

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**February 1990/CENTERFOLD:** Bret Hart. **Lex Luger**, Hogan, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams, Woman.

**April 1990/CENTERFOLD:** Dusty Rhodes. **Ric Flair**, Hennig vs. Hogan, Sting, Rockers, Lawler.

**June 1990/CENTERFOLD:** Sting. **Hogan vs. Warrior**, R&R Express, Rhodes vs. Savage, Arn vs. Sawyer.

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Undertaker, Steiners, Honky Tonk Man interview.

**December 1992/CENTERFOLD:** Big Van Vader. **PWI 500**, Bossman-Nailz, Watt & WCW rules, Justice interview.

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**May 1993/CENTERFOLD:** Undertaker. **WrestleMania IX preview**, Cactus Jack, Madusa-Sherri.

**June 1993/CENTERFOLD:** Razor Ramon. **Flair**, Race-Vader, Lawler-Hennig, Kamala, WWF's egoists.

**July 1993/CENTERFOLD:** Davey Boy Smith. **Hulk Hogan**. Vader, Yokozuna, Hart, Slamboree, Flair-Rude.

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**October 1993/CENTERFOLD:** Marty Jannetty. **WWF Midyear Report**. Vicious, Anderson, Hart-Hogan.

**November 1993/CENTERFOLD:** Steiners. **WCW Midyear Report**. Doink, Funk-Gilbert, Race, Yokozuna.

**December 1993/CENTERFOLD:** Bret Hart. **PWI 500**. Luger, Davey Boy Smith, Cactus Jack.

**January 1994/CENTERFOLD:** Jerry Lawler. **Doink**. Nasty Boys, Steiners, Cornette, Vicious.

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# time capsules



## "MOM ALWAYS LIKED YOU BEST!" "NO, YOU!" "NO, YOU!" "NO, YOU!"

Long before Stu Hart's clan swooped down from Calgary, the four Dusek brothers captivated wrestling fans. They appeared at virtually every Eastern card for many years. This 1935 photo shows (from left, top) Ernie, Joey, and Rudy exhibiting their skills, with Emil anchoring all three.

## "I WAS FLYING LONG BEFORE MADUSA WAS EVEN BORN!"

June Byers was one of the great women wrestlers in history, but didn't limit her accomplishments to the ring. She and husband Sam Menacker owned a Cessna aircraft, and Byers is at the controls at a Houston airport in 1963. It made it a lot easier to reach faraway cards!



## HE WOULD'VE TAKEN THEM TO THE OPERA HOUSE, BUT IT HADN'T BEEN BUILT YET

When the Zebra Kid traveled to Sydney, Australia, in 1962, he visited a local gymnasium and showed off his strength by hoisting three of its workers on a barbell—combined weight, 740 pounds. A huge international star during the 1960s, Zebra Kid was never unmasked in the ring.

## "BE PATIENT, HONEY, IT'S NOT QUITE READY"

It's a Sunday morning, January, 1965. Wrestler Tokyo Tom, eagerly awaiting that afternoon's dinner, gives some instructions to wife Linell, who is preparing the pot roast. Since there's cake on the table, they're probably expecting some guests. Come and get it!



Every other month, **Pro Wrestling Illustrated** will pore through its massive photo collection to bring you some of the most unique photographs the mat world has ever seen!



### YOU'RE GOING TO THE MR. CLEAN COMMERCIAL AUDITIONS, LIKE IT OR NOT

Waldo Van Erich has just lost to Dory Dixon, and is getting his hair shaved on this May 1962 card in Houston. Perhaps he prefers the more conventional atmosphere of his local barber shop. If they had stopped at this point, Von Erich might have been the '60s equivalent of Luna Vachon!

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE VERSION OF "YOU KEEP ME HANGIN' ON"? THE SUPREMES, VANILLA FUDGE, OR KIM WILDE?

J.J. Dillon finds himself in a precarious situation. Does he leap off the fence, where he probably will be pummeled by Dusty Rhodes? Or does he climb inside the ring, into the midst of a steel cage match? It's a terrible predicament during this August 1982 match in Orlando, Florida.

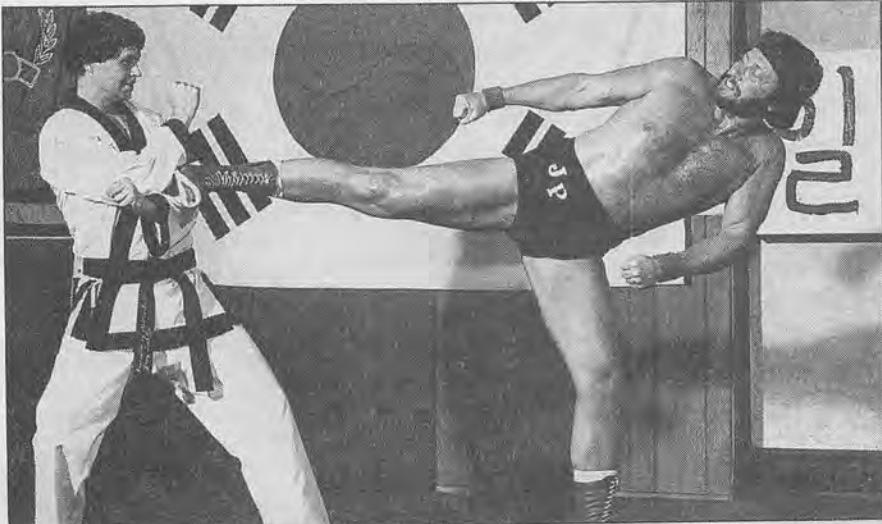


### PREMATCH PREPARATION—NOTHING LIKE IT!

Ken Dillinger was a detested Chicago wrestler about 20 years ago, regularly challenging the likes of then-popular Don Muraco. He and girlfriend Momma Dillinger relax behind an arena in November of 1971, quaffing a couple of beers. We hope they brought those bottles back for deposit.

### ALI VS. INOKI MADE A LOAD OF MONEY. WE CAN, TOO

Actually, John Powers wondered what it might be like to incorporate some martial arts techniques into his repertoire. So on a trip to Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1979, he stopped by to learn some tricks of the trade from George Ferrell. Hope it did him some good on his next tour of Japan.



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- 2 YOKOZUNA**  
550, Samoa  
(2) WWF World champion
- 3 RAZOR RAMON**  
291, Minneapolis, MN  
(3) WWF Intercontinental champion
- 4 BRET HART**  
235, Calgary, Alberta  
(5) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
- 5 RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN  
(4) No. 3 contender: WCW World title
- 6 DUSTIN RHODES**  
254, Austin, TX  
(6) WCW U.S. champion
- 7 STING**  
260, Venice Beach, CA  
(9) No. 4 contender: WCW World title
- 8 THE UNDERTAKER**  
320, parts unknown  
(8) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
- 9 RANDY SAVAGE**  
245, Sarasota, FL  
(-) No. 7 contender: WWF World title
- 10 STEVE AUSTIN**  
241, Dallas, TX  
(-) No. 5 contender: WCW World title

## PWI's Top 10



Rick & Scott Steiner

## WCW

**World Champion:**  
**BIG VAN VADER**  
(C) 450, Denver, CO

- 1—DUSTIN RHODES**  
(1) 254, Austin, TX
- 2—RICK RUDE**  
(3) 246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 3—RIC FLAIR**  
(4) 243, Minneapolis, MN
- 4—STING**  
(2) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 5—STEVE AUSTIN**  
(8) 241, Dallas, TX
- 6—THE BOSS**  
(-) 310, Cobb County, GA
- 7—ERIK WATTS**  
(-) 262, Tulsa, OK
- 8—JOHNNY B. BADD**  
(9) 235, Macon, GA
- 9—RICK STEAMBOAT**  
(7) 238, Honolulu, HI
- 10—STEVE REGAL**  
(6) 247, Blackpool, England

## WWF

**World Champion:**  
**YOKOZUNA**  
(C) 550, Samoa

- 1—RAZOR RAMON**  
(1) 291, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—BRET HART**  
(2) 235, Calgary, Alberta
- 3—THE UNDERTAKER**  
(3) 320, parts unknown
- 4—SHAWN MICHAELS**  
(8) 220, San Antonio, TX
- 5—LEX LUGER**  
(4) 290, Chicago, IL
- 6—LUDVIG BORG**  
(5) 258, Helsinki, Finland
- 7—RANDY SAVAGE**  
(-) 245, Sarasota, FL
- 8—TATANICA**  
(-) 260, Miami, FL
- 9—JEFF JARRETT**  
(-) 220, Hendersonville, TN
- 10—THE KID**  
(-) 201, Tampa, FL

## GLOBAL

**Global Champion:**  
**ICEMAN PARSONS**  
(C) 245, St. Louis, MO

- 1—CHRIS ADAMS**  
(1) 228, Stratford, England
- 2—ROD PRICE**  
(5) 265, Los Angeles, CA
- 3—BLACK BART**  
(2) 261, Pampa, TX
- 4—SCOTT PUTSKI**  
(8) 235, Austin, TX
- 5—AL PEREZ**  
(3) 239, Tampa, FL
- 6—JOHN HAWK**  
(9) 280, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—MOADIB**  
(-) 285, parts unknown
- 8—JAKE ROBERTS**  
(7) 253, Stone Mountain, GA
- 9—MIKE DAVIS**  
(4) 235, Tampa, FL
- 10—ANGEL OF DEATH**  
(6) 310, Los Angeles, CA

## USWA

**USWA Champion:**  
**JERRY LAWLER**  
(3) 234, Memphis, TN

- 1—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER**  
(4) 230, Memphis, TN
- 2—JEFF JARRETT**  
(C) 220, Hendersonville, TN
- 3—BUDDY LANDELL**  
(-) 236, Los Angeles, CA
- 4—DUTCH MANTEL**  
(-) 224, Oil Trough, TX
- 5—MIKE ANTHONY**  
(8) 205, Calgary, Alberta
- 6—JEFF GAYLORD**  
(-) 280, St. Louis, MO
- 7—DOUG GILBERT**  
(7) 241, Lexington, TN
- 8—THE WARLOCK**  
(-) 238, parts unknown
- 9—KOKO B. WARE**  
(6) 229, Union City, TN
- 10—REGGIE B. FINE**  
(-) 215, Memphis, TN

# OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue, while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

## MOST POPULAR

<b>1</b>	<b>BRET HART</b>
235, Calgary, Alberta	
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular	
<b>2</b>	<b>STING</b>
260, Venice Beach, CA	
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular	
<b>3</b>	<b>RAZOR RAMON</b>
291, Minneapolis, MN	
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular	
<b>4</b>	<b>DUSTIN RHODES</b>
254, Austin, TX	
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular	
<b>5</b>	<b>RIC FLAIR</b>
243, Minneapolis, MN	
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular	
<b>6</b>	<b>LEX LUGER</b>
290, Chicago, IL	
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular	
<b>7</b>	<b>RANDY SAVAGE</b>
245, Sarasota, FL	
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular	
<b>8</b>	<b>TATANKA</b>
260, Miami, FL	
Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular	
<b>9</b>	<b>RICK STEAMBOAT</b>
238, Honolulu, HI	
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular	
<b>10</b>	<b>BRIAN PILLMAN</b>
226, Cincinnati, OH	
Last issue: unrated	

## SMOKY MOUNTAIN

### Smoky Mountain Champion:

#### BRIAN LEE

(C) 251, Los Angeles, CA

<b>1</b> — <b>TONY ANTHONY</b>
(2) 235, Bucksnort, TN
<b>2</b> — <b>TRACEY SMOTHERS</b>
(4) 227, Atlanta, GA
<b>3</b> — <b>TIM HORNER</b>
(1) 235, Morristown, TN
<b>4</b> — <b>STEVE ARMSTRONG</b>
(9) 224, Marietta, GA
<b>5</b> — <b>CHRIS CANDIDO</b>
(3) 226, Carteret, NJ
<b>6</b> — <b>KILLER KYLE</b>
(8) 303, Atlanta, GA
<b>7</b> — <b>PRINCE KHRIS</b>
(-) 267, Cairo
<b>8</b> — <b>TOM PRICHARD</b>
(-) 220, Houston, TX
<b>9</b> — <b>JIM DEL RAY</b>
(5) 234, Kingsport, TN
<b>10</b> — <b>THE BULLET</b>
(-) 228, Marietta, GA

## MOST HATED

<b>1</b>	<b>BIG VAN VADER</b>
450, Denver, CO	
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated	
<b>2</b>	<b>CRUSH</b>
310, Honolulu, HI	
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated	
<b>3</b>	<b>SHAWN MICHAELS</b>
220, San Antonio, TX	
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated	
<b>4</b>	<b>RICK RUDE</b>
246, Robbinsdale, MN	
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated	
<b>5</b>	<b>YOKOZUNA</b>
550, Samoa	
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated	
<b>6</b>	<b>STEVE AUSTIN</b>
241, Dallas, TX	
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated	
<b>7</b>	<b>STEVE REGAL</b>
247, Blackpool, England	
Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated	
<b>8</b>	<b>BRIAN LEE</b>
251, Los Angeles, CA	
Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated	
<b>9</b>	<b>PAUL ORNDORFF</b>
253, Brandon, FL	
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated	
<b>10</b>	<b>JEFF JARRETT</b>
220, Hendersonville, TN	
Last issue: unrated	

## ECW

<b>ECW Champion:</b>
<b>SABU</b>
(C) 220, Bombay
<b>1</b> — <b>TERRY FUNK</b>
(1) 247, Amarillo, TX
<b>2</b> — <b>HAWK</b>
(2) 277, Chicago, IL
<b>3</b> — <b>TASMANIAC</b>
(3) 221, Tasmania
<b>4</b> — <b>KEVIN SULLIVAN</b>
(4) 252, Boston, MA
<b>5</b> — <b>MR. HUGHES</b>
(5) 308, Kansas City, KS
<b>6</b> — <b>SAVATORE BELLOMO</b>
(6) 240, Sicily, Italy
<b>7</b> — <b>TOMMY CAIRO</b>
(7) 257, Philadelphia, PA
<b>8</b> — <b>ROCKIN' REBEL</b>
(8) 219, Philadelphia, PA
<b>9</b> — <b>TOMMY DREAMER</b>
(9) 245, Yonkers, NY
<b>10</b> — <b>JOHNNY GUNN</b>
(10) 250, Allentown, PA

For period ended December 23, 1993

## CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

## SINGLES

<b>1</b> — <b>BIG VAN VADER</b> .....	<b>89</b> points
<b>2</b> — <b>BRET HART</b> .....	<b>68</b> points
<b>3</b> — <b>YOKOZUNA</b> .....	<b>57</b> points
<b>4</b> — <b>STING</b> .....	<b>44</b> points
<b>5</b> — <b>DUSTIN RHODES</b> .....	<b>40</b> points

## TAG TEAMS

<b>1</b> — <b>RICK &amp; SCOTT STEINER</b> .....	<b>77</b> points
<b>2</b> — <b>THE NASTY BOYS</b> .....	<b>47</b> points
<b>3</b> — <b>THE HEADSHRINKERS</b> .....	<b>46</b> points
<b>4</b> — <b>2 COLD SCORPIO &amp; MARCUS BAGWELL</b> .....	<b>46</b> points
<b>5</b> — <b>MONEY INC.</b> .....	<b>43</b> points

**ICWA:** ICWA Champion—Jumbo Barretta; 1—Frankie Rose; 2—Lanny Poffo; 3—Surgeon General; 4—Rico Fredrico; 5—Kenny Kendall; 6—Jammin' Johnny; 7—Coconut Kid; 8—Bad Boy Bradley; 9—Bill Payne; 10—Sid Powers.

**IWCCW:** IWCCW Champion—Title Vacant; 1—Manny Fernandez; 2—Greg Valentine; 3—Tony Atlas; 4—Tasmaniac; 5—Tommy Dreamer; 6—Ray Odyssey; 7—Primo Carnera III; 8—Koko B. Ware; 9—Joe Savoldi; 10—Hercules.

**PWA:** PWA Champion—The Hater; 1—Hawk; 2—Nailz; 3—Punisher; 4—Jerry Lynn; 5—Brad Rheingans; 6—Tommy Ferrara; 7—Derrick Dukes; 8—Randy Gusto; 9—Billy Blaze; 10—Baron Von Raschke.

**PWF:** PWF Champion—Austin Steele; 1—The Hillbilly; 2—Italian Stallion; 3—George South; 4—Russian Assassin I; 5—Scott Powers; 6—Terry Austin; 7—Chris Hamrick; 8—Tyrone Knox; 9—Star Ryder; 10—Emilio Ullacra.

**SOUTHERN STATES WRESTLING:** SSW Champion—Wayne Rogers; 1—Jimmy Golden; 2—Mike Samson; 3—G. Q. Stratus; 4—The Mongolian Stomper; 5—Eddie Golden; 6—Danny Christian; 7—Billy Marshall; 8—Skyfire; 9—Keith Hart; 10—Alex Shane.

**USA:** USA TV Champion—Col. DeBeers; 1—C.W. Bergstrom; 2—Larry Oliver; 3—Bruiser Brian; 4—Lou Andrews; 5—Crush; 6—Jesse Barr; 7—Dane Rush; 8—John Rambo; 9—Silver Shadow; 10—Karl Pope.

**WWA:** WWA Champion—Boy Gone Bad; 1—Friendly Frank; 2—Ray Odyssey; 3—Abudah Singh; 4—Ed the Razor; 5—Chris Powers; 6—Duane Gill; 7—Akita Kaos; 8—The Spider; 9—Barry Hardy; 10—Scott Vida.

**WWC:** WWC Universal Champion—Greg Valentine; 1—Invader I; 2—Ricky Santana; 3—The Barbarian; 4—Dusty Wolfe; 5—Mohammed Hussein; 6—El Bronco; 7—La Ley; 8—John Savage; 9—Giant Warrior; 10—Jose Luis Rivera.

# RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 20 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

**Returning to the fold.** November was a rough month for some of the WWF's top competitors. In the days leading up to the Survivor Series, both **Tatanka** and **Quebecer Pierre** were relegated to the injured list and had to be replaced in that pay-per-view event.

The Native American's injury came at the hands of Finland's favorite son, **Ludvig Borga**, who ruthlessly attacked and defeated him at a TV taping. Pierre's injury was inflicted by America's number-one flagwaver, **Lex Luger** himself. His Lex-cellence clobbered the tag team beltholder with his steel-plated forearm on a *WWF Monday Night Raw* match in mid-November.

Many readers implored us to move **The Quebecers**, though they are still World champs, way down in the tag ranks and to push Tatanka out of the WWF ratings altogether. We did just that in the latter case the last few issues, but grudgingly kept **Jacques** and Pierre in the ratings since manager **Johnny Polo** subbed for Pierre on several cards.

Since December rolled around, both men have returned to action. And Tatanka has picked up right where he left off before suffering his first WWF loss to Borga. He dominated the intimidating **Diesel** in a series of bouts overseas.

More importantly, he defeated Borga by disqualification in a rematch held on *Raw*. WWF World champ **Yokozuna** interfered on the Finn's behalf. Thus, Tatanka's recent hot streak has more than earned him one of the top spots in the WWF rankings.

**"Perfect" absence.** Where's **Curt Hennig**, a lot of you have asked us. What's happened to "Mr. Perfect"? Unfortunately, we don't have a real good

answer for you. Sources close to Hennig will only say that he is taking care of some personal business right now and was happy to give "**Macho Man**" **Randy Savage** the chance to take his place at the Survivor Series.

Rumors persist that he's considering jumping to another



Curt Hennig

federation, but as of this writing, they were just that: *rumors*. Nonetheless, he'll be AWOL from our ratings until he turns up in a wrestling ring again somewhere.

**"The King" goes Smoky?** By now you must have heard about **Jerry Lawler**'s legal problems in Louisville, Kentucky. You probably also know that Lawler has been kept off all WWF cards and telecasts while he tries to clear his name, though he's still competing in his beloved USWA.

A strange thing happened on a recent card at Memphis' Mid-South Coliseum. Smoky Mountain champion **Brian Lee** showed up (without **Tammy Fyach** at his side) and put his title on the line against "The King." Lawler had the hometown crowd decidedly on his side and seemed close to winning the title before **Rex Hargrove** and **Reggie B. Fine** stormed the ring to rescue "Prime Time."

After careful consideration, we opted to put Lawler in the SMW ratings in *PWI Weekly* for the week he received the title shot, but decided to leave him out of the monthly rankings until we see him compete on a regular basis there.

If that ever happened, the big question would be whether he'd do it as a fan favorite or rulebreaker. We may never find out.

**And speaking of the USWA's best ...** Our suspicions about **Jeff Jarrett** were not unfounded. He's becoming

a rulebreaker. He recently won the USWA title by pinning Lawler with his feet on the ropes. He also abandoned **Brian Christopher** while they were USWA tag champs, leaving him to be viciously double-teamed by **PG-13**. Jarrett also finally debuted in the WWF, using his arrogant "Double J" country music star persona.

He's truly earned his spot on our Most Hated list.

**Is there anything we didn't cover?** Do you have any additional thoughts on our ratings? If so, write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 956, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

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8361	10,000 Maniacs
2542	2 Live Crew
2231	AC / DC
2321	Bryan Adams
2371	Aerosmith
2522	Al B. Sure!
2541	Alice in Chains
2681	Anthrax
2527	B-52's
2322	Beastie Boys
2323	The Beatles
2381	Beverly Hills 90210
1431	Ian Ziering
3641	Shannen Doherty
4273	Jennie Garth
4732	Brian Austin Green
7741	Jason Priestly
7371	Luke Perry
2523	Black Crowes
2524	Black Sabbath
2528	Clint Black
2543	Mary J. Blige
2651	Michael Bolton
2662	Bonham
2764	Garth Brooks
2271	Mariah Carey
2525	Eric Clapton
2653	Phil Collins
2871	The Cure
2972	Billy Ray Cyrus
2661	Bon Jovi

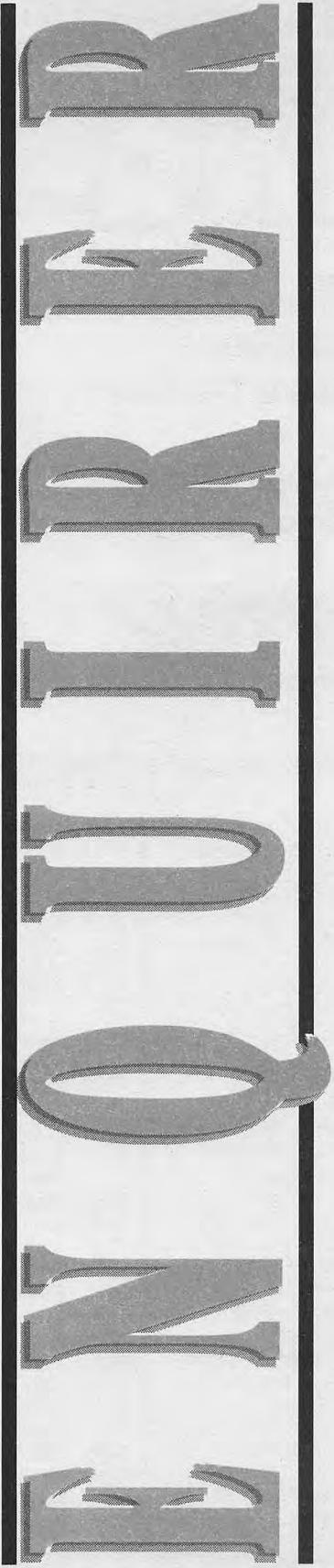
2692	Boyz II Men
2691	David Bowie
2262	C & C Music Factory
2761	Crosby, Stills & Nash
3251	Da Lench Mob
3265	Damian Dame
3261	Darn Yankees
3262	Danger Danger
3331	Def Leppard
3353	Del Amitri
3472	Dire Straits
3211	Eazy E
3682	En Vogue
3761	EPMD
3781	Gloria Estefan
3981	Extreme
3272	Faster Pussycat
3471	Firehouse
4221	Peter Gabriel
4362	Genesis
4381	Geto Boyz
4721	Grateful Dead
4861	Guns N Roses
4261	Hammer
4274	Hardline
4682	House of Pain
4681	Whitney Houston
4231	Ice Cube
4232	Ice-T
4611	INXS

5222	Janet Jackson
5221	Michael Jackson
5631	Jodeci
5632	Billy Joel
5641	Elton John
5832	Wynonna Judd
5472	KISS
5741	Kris Kross
6771	KRS-One
5332	Led Zeppelin
5962	Lynch Mob
6231	Madonna
6252	Mitch Malloy
6271	Marky Mark & the Funky Bunch
6241	Megadeth
6382	Metallica
6422	George Michael
6682	Motley Crue
6721	Mr. Big
6352	Nelson
6461	Nine Inch Nails
6471	Nirvana
6262	Sinead O'Connor
6723	Ozzy Osbourne
7263	Pantera
7321	Pearl Jam
7381	Tom Petty
9454	Wilson Phillips
7462	Pink Floyd
7641	Poison

7742	Prince
7743	Prince Markie Dee
1832	Queensryche
7265	The Ramones
7333	Redman
7363	R.E.M.
7332	R.H. Chili Peppers
7651	Rolling Stones
7871	Rush
7251	Salt N Pepa
7541	Skid Row
7523	Slaughter
7643	The Smithereens
7682	Soundgarden
7683	Soup Dragons
7746	Spin Doctors
7771	Bruce Springsteen
7842	Sting
7931	Mathew Sweet
8371	Tesla
8431	They Might Be Giants
8521	TLC
8721	Randy Travis
8221	U2
8451	Ugly Kid Joe
8262	Van Halen
8341	Suzanne Vega
9463	The Who
9452	Vanessa Williams
9682	Neil Young
1181	ZZ Top

**PLUS ...OVER 250 MORE!** (If the Band you're looking for is not listed here, just press or say the numbers on your phone that contain the first three letters of the band, or artist's last name (i.e. GUNs n Roses = 486, Gloria ESTefan = 378).

## WRESTLING



## BOBBY HEENAN OUSTED FROM WWF, VOWS NOT TO RETURN!

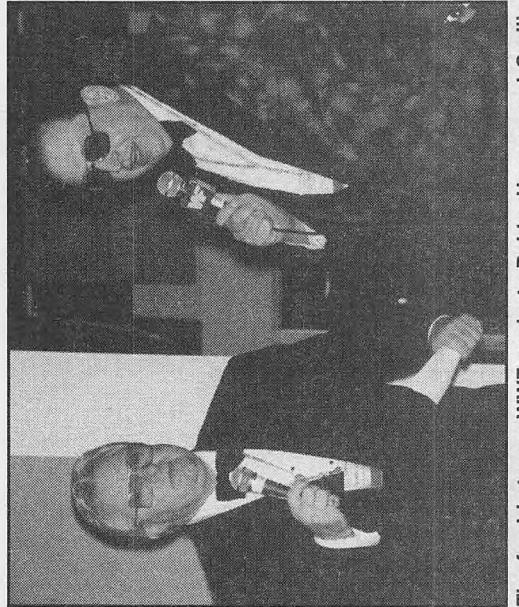
**Feud With Gorilla Monsoon Comes To A Head**

By ANDY RODRIGUEZ

WHITE PLAINS, NY—After 9½ years with the WWF, Bobby Heenan is out. His long-running feud with fellow broadcaster Gorilla Monsoon played itself out during a taping of *WWF Monday Night Raw*. Monsoon approached "The Brain" at the broadcasting table and told him he had both good news and bad news for him.

The good news was that the WWF was sending Heenan on a trip; the bad news was that it was only a one-way trek ... straight out of the federation. Monsoon had previously threatened to teach the man fans call "Weasel" a lesson.

"I don't need the WWF," he told *Wrestling Enquirer*



The feud between WWF analysts Bobby Heenan and Gorilla Monsoon has led to Heenan's departure. Monsoon sent "The Brain" on a "one-way trip ... straight out of the federation" during a recent taping of *WWF Monday Night Raw*.

in a brief telephone interview from his Beverly Hills, California, home. "They always favored Monsoon anyway."

It is unclear where Heenan will turn up next. After a mediocre wrestling career, Heenan made a name for himself during the 1980s as a manager in both the AWA and the WWF. He led Nick Bockwinkel to the AWA World title and also had the likes of King Kong Bundy, Big John Studd, Andre the Giant, Lex Luger, "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig, and Ric Flair in his stable at various times.

"Mr. Heenan is clearly the most knowledgeable person in wrestling today," said Edward J. Windel, Heenan's director of public relations. "He could manage again, but will probably pursue something in the broadcasting or journalism field, perhaps even take David Letterman's job. The possibilities now that he's no longer obligated to the WWF are endless."

## SMW Champ Lee Challenges Lawler

By DAVE ROSENBAUM

MEMPHIS, TN—The interederation battles continued recently when Smoky Mountain champion Brian Lee ventured out of Smoky Mountain territory and put his title on the line at the Mid-South Coliseum against USWA star Jerry "The King" Lawler.

"Prime Time" was booed loudly by the pro-Lawler crowd, but wrestled well against "The King." In a surprising move, Lee competed against Lawler without the support of his beautiful but cunning manager, Tammy Fyfch. His critics are quick to point out that he relies on

Fyfch's interference to keep his belt.

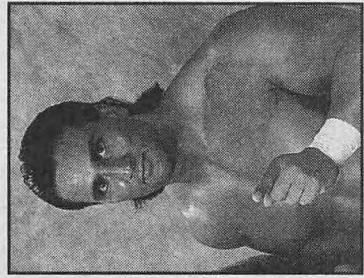
The match, however, did not end without interference. Lee was disqualified when Rex Hargrove and Reggie B. Fine entered the ring to offer help.

"People say Tammy has to interfere for me to keep this title," Lee said afterward. "Tammy's the best manager in the world, but I do the wrestling. I assured her I could take care of business against Lawler. She agreed."

It was not known at press time if Lee would appear on future USWA cards.

## Roma's Horseman Future In Doubt

By CRAIG PETERS



ATLANTA—The Four Horsemen have taken a lot of heat from people who insisted there were only three active members; that number may be reduced to two, as Paul Roma has apparently decided to become a rulebreaker.

It happened at a WCW TV taping at Center Stage

Theater during a match pitting Roma and Erik Watts against Lord Steven Regal and Paul Orndorff. Regal was assisted by Sir William, while Orndorff was seconded by The Assassin.

Following a signal from Assassin, Roma turned on his unsuspecting partner and attacked him. The match was declared a no-contest. Roma, who won the WCW World tag team title with fellow Horseman Arn Anderson this summer, offered no apologies for his actions.

"Winning the tag team belts with Arn was just a taste of glory as far as I'm concerned," he said. "I'm capable of bigger and better things. But as long as I have to take a backseat to people like Ric Flair, I'm not going to realize that potential. Let's face it: I was by far the most talented Horseman."

## AROUND THE GLOBE

### CARDIFF, WALES

Tatanka may have been on the sidelines for quite a few weeks following a savage beating he took from Ludvig Borga, but he's back and already in top form. He handily defeated Diesel on several stops of the WWF's European tour. He's no longer undefeated, but is just as talented as ever. Now rumor has it that this Native American is set for an all-out assault on either the WWF World or Intercontinental title.

### CLOVERDALE, B.C.

A scary incident took place on a recent West Coast Championship Wrestling card. Heavyweight champ "Gorgeous" Michelle Starr, in the middle of a defense against rival Billy Two Eagles, was flipped out of the ring between the ropes and landed face-first. He broke several toes and severely strained his neck. Doctors say Starr is lucky he wasn't paralyzed.

### TOKYO, JAPAN

Big Van Vader had a tough time in the Orient. The man who loves to cripple opponents, the same man some observers have labeled the toughest, most ruthless competitor in wrestling, submitted to Nobuhiko Takada's painful armlock submission hold after sustaining an injury to his right arm. Good thing for Vader his WCW World title wasn't on the line.

## Koloff, Valiant Renew Old Rivalry

By CHRIS BERNUCCA

SMITHFIELD, NC—One day after Carolina Championship Wrestling Alliance held a ceremony to induct the late Jay Youngblood into its Hall of Fame, two old veterans, Jimmy Valiant and Ivan Koloff, were talking about settling an old feud once and for all.

Koloff had just lost a Russian chain match to CCWA champion Kahn the Warlord by disqualification when a brawl between him and the slimmed-down "Boogie-Woogie Man" erupted.

It was in stark contrast to events

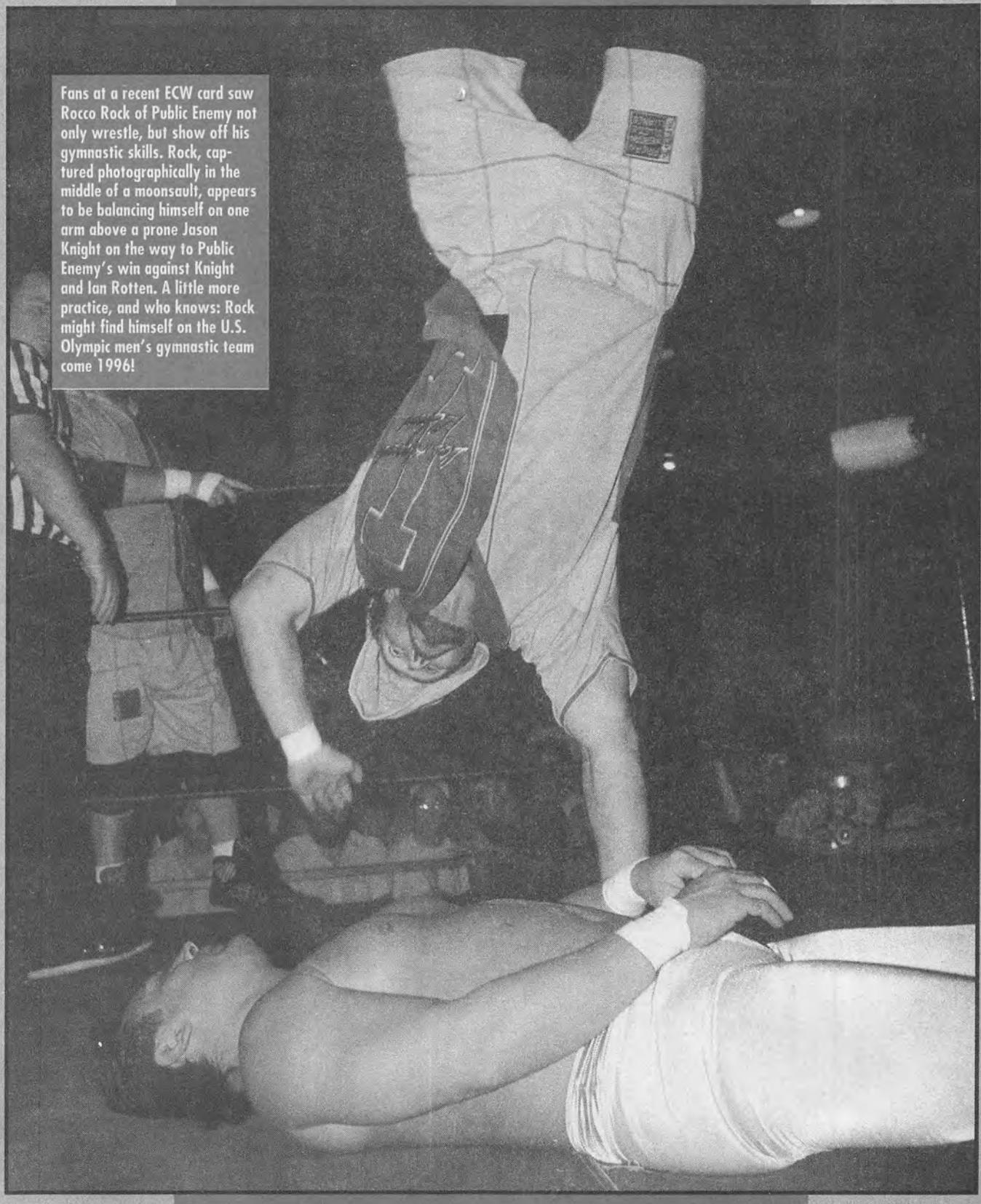
at the Hall of Fame banquet held the night before. Rick Steamboat, once a partner of Youngblood's, inducted him, giving a moving speech. Both Koloff and Valiant appeared at the banquet as well, but the mood turned much darker at the following night's card.

"Koloff's been doin' nasty things in this sport for too long," said Valiant. "It's up to me to get rid of him for good."

Koloff and Valiant are expected to meet in a specialty match in the near future.

# HOT SHOT

Fans at a recent ECW card saw Rocco Rock of Public Enemy not only wrestle, but show off his gymnastic skills. Rock, captured photographically in the middle of a moonsault, appears to be balancing himself on one arm above a prone Jason Knight on the way to Public Enemy's win against Knight and Ian Rotten. A little more practice, and who knows: Rock might find himself on the U.S. Olympic men's gymnastic team come 1996!



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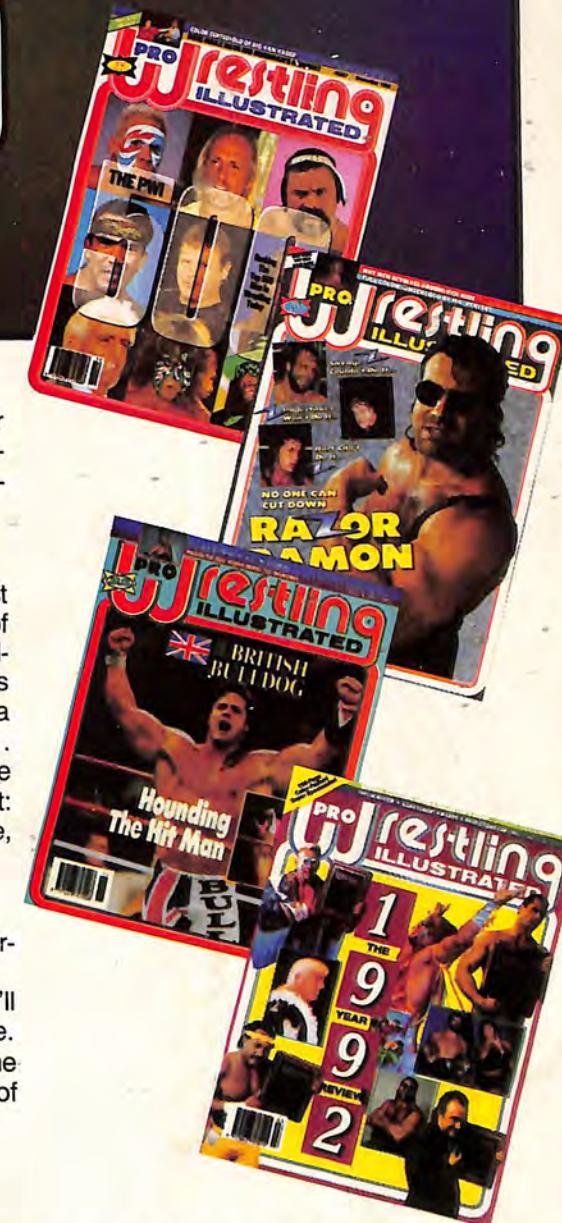
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